

FIRE PLACE



1 person dies in wildfire near California-Oregon border

A firefighter approaches a burning home along Olive View Road during a wildfire Friday, July 6, 2018, in Alpine, Calif. Gusty winds fanned the flames as Southern California struggles through a scorching heat wave.

Associated Press
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Pence rips Democrats on immigration, defends ICE

By KEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence on Friday accused Democrats of making opposition to the federal immigration agency central to their party, calling for an end to "spurious attacks" on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In an address at ICE headquarters infused with electoral politics, Pence noted that some prominent Democrats had called for the abolition of the agency charged with detaining and deporting migrants entering the country illegally. He said President Donald Trump would fully support immigration enforcement agents and warned that the abolition of ICE would lead to more illegal immigration, human trafficking, violent crime and the proliferation of drugs and "vicious gangs."

"It isn't just the expression of the radical left that has



Vice President Mike Pence speaks at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), at ICE headquarters, Friday, July 6, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

been speaking out against ICE. The truth is that opposition of ICE has moved to the center of the Democratic Party itself," Pence said in a speech to ICE employees. "Just when you thought the Democrats couldn't move farther to the left, leading

members of the Democratic Party, including candidates for higher office, are actually openly advocating the abolition of ICE." "The American people have the right to their opinions, but these spurious attacks on ICE by our political

leaders must stop," Pence said. The dispute over the federal agency has emerged as a political fault line after the Trump administration began separating migrant children from their parents after they crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, leading to nationwide protests last weekend. Trump has made border security a focus of his message as he aims to prevent a Democratic takeover of Congress in the November mid-term elections.

Pence made no mention of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy or the caring for unaccompanied children, who are overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. As the vice president was greeting ICE employees after the speech, he did not respond to a shouted question from a reporter asking if separating children "was a Christian thing to do."

ICE has come under fire from Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, all of whom were named by Pence as seeking the abolition of the agency. The three Democrats are among a large field of potential 2020 challengers to Trump.

While some Democrats in the House and Senate have raised the prospect of eliminating ICE, no top Democrats in the House or Senate have called for such a move. Gillibrand has said ICE is not "working as intended" and pushed for separating the criminal justice aspect of the agency from immigration issues. Responding to Pence's speech, she tweeted that immigration "is a strength of America. Our country needs a new agency that works, and it needs bipartisan immigration reform." □

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California fire kills 1 as heat stokes blazes in Western U.S.

HORNBROOK, Calif. (AP) —

A wildfire raging through drought-stricken timber and brush near California's border with Oregon killed one person and destroyed multiple structures as it burns largely out of control, authorities said Friday.

No other details were released about the death blamed on the fire that threatened 300 homes near Hornbrook, a town of 250 people about 14 miles (22 kilometers) south of the Oregon border. It's not clear the flames burned homes or other structures like barns.

It was one of dozens of fires across the dry American West, fueled by rising temperatures and gusty winds that were expected to last through the weekend. Heat spreading from Southern California into parts of Arizona, Nevada and Utah threatened to worsen flames that have forced thousands of people to evacuate and destroyed hundreds of homes across the West.

On the California-Oregon border, the fire ignited Thursday and moved swiftly through the region that is home to many retirees, said Ray Haupt, chairman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors.

"It moved so fast I'm not sure how much time lagged between the evacuation and when it hit Hornbrook," he said. "It hit there pretty quick. We know we've lost homes and lots of structures, including livestock and horses as well."

California Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency, citing "extreme peril" to people and property. Farther north in Oregon, authorities urged hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts to avoid forests near the state



In this photo released Friday, July 6, 2018, by the California Highway Patrol, the Klamathon Fire burns in Hornbrook, Calif.

line. Although the flames have not crossed into Oregon, officials are concerned people in remote areas can't be reached in case they need to quickly evacuate.

The areas of concern include the Pacific Crest Trail, Mount Ashland and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Fire danger could prohibit rescuers from looking for anyone, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office said.

Elsewhere in California, a massive blaze northwest of Sacramento had destroyed nine homes, officials said. Firefighters had begun inspecting the fire zone, which covers an area

nearly three times the size of San Francisco.

The fire, spanning 140 square miles (360 square kilometers), was partially contained, but crews struggled in steep, rugged terrain. With the weather getting hotter and drier, and officials said the fire could grow.

About 75 miles east of Los Angeles, a wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest prompted mandatory evacuations for the entire community of Forest Falls, which has about 700 homes and about 1,000 residents.

In San Diego County, a fast-moving wildfire burned at least five homes and as

many as a dozen in Alpine, according to journalists at the scene.

The 400-acre fire was only 5 percent contained, but crews had virtually stopped its growth and were focusing on knocking down hotspots that continue to threatened houses and mobile homes, state fire officials said.

One firefighter was treated for minor facial burns.

In the same county, a fire on the Camp Pendleton Marine base prompted the evacuation of 750 homes. In contrast, rain helped slow the growth of wildfires in Colorado that have burned dozens of homes. But the threat of a del-

uge raised the possibility of flooding at a stubborn blaze in the southwestern corner of the state.

Officials issued a flash flood watch for the 85-square-mile (220-square-kilometer) area burned by a fire that started June 1. They say it is just smoldering and rain over the coming days should keep it from spreading.

Rain helped a fire in the heart of ski country that has destroyed three houses, including the home of a volunteer firefighter battling the flames near the resort town of Aspen. Gov. John Hickenlooper visited the area Friday.

It also offered relief in the southern Colorado mountains where a blaze has destroyed over 130 homes and forced the evacuation of at least 2,000 properties. The Spring Creek Fire became the third-largest in state history at 165 square miles (427 square kilometers).

In a Utah mountain area, a wildfire that destroyed 90 structures and forced more than 1,100 people to flee was growing, but fire officials hoped to gain more control after their work Friday. Many homes and cabins likely burned, while others may be sheds or garages. The fire spans about 75 square miles (193 square kilometers) near a popular fishing reservoir about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south-east of Salt Lake City, according to the Utah Division Forestry Fire State Lands.

It has forced a 35-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 40 to close since Wednesday, said Sonya Capek, a fire spokeswoman. Officials believe human activity sparked the blaze, but an exact cause hasn't been determined. □

Associated Press

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2 women publicly accuse Indiana attorney general of groping

By BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two women came forward Friday to publicly accuse Attorney General Curtis Hill of groping them during a party earlier this year, increasing pressure on the embattled Republican to resign.

Democratic state Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon published her account of the March 15 incident, which occurred at an Indianapolis bar, in The (Northwest Indiana) Times newspaper.

Gabrielle McLemore, the Indiana Senate Democrats' communications director, told The Associated Press that she decided to go public partly out of frustration that Hill issued a defiant statement Friday calling the allegations false.

The two women also said they acted because they wanted to give other women the courage to confront inappropriate conduct.

Candelaria Reardon described Hill's behavior as "deviant" when she encountered him in the early morning hours after the legislative session ended for the



This Aug. 9, 2017 photo shows Curtis Hill, Indiana Attorney General, during an event in Indianapolis. Indiana's Democratic Party chairman is urging Hill to resign after he was investigated because four women accused him of inappropriate touching. Chairman John Zody said the allegations against Hill are "beyond troubling and wildly inappropriate."

Associated Press

year. She says he leaned toward her, put his hand on her back, slid it down and grabbed her buttocks. The Munster lawmaker says she told Hill to "back off," but he approached again later in the night, put his hand on her back and said: "That skin. That back."

Hill said he has no intention

of stepping down despite calls to do so.

"I am not resigning. The allegations against me are vicious and false," he said in a statement Friday. "At no time did I ever grab or touch anyone inappropriately."

That's at odds with the accounts of both Candelaria

Reardon and McLemore.

McLemore said Hill cornered her at the party and asked, "Do you know who I am?" and proceeded to massage her back, while she worried what others who noticed Hill's unwanted advances would think. Eventually her intern intervened by asking if she wanted to go to the bathroom.

McLemore said she never wanted to come forward, but changed her mind after seeing that earlier on Friday Candelaria Reardon had come forward, and that Hill continued to deny he did anything wrong.

"Women go through this stuff all the time," McLemore told The Associated Press. For Hill "to deny it again and again is so frustrating. If my story can help other women feel like they don't have to hide, that they don't have to feel like they did something wrong — that's my goal."

Several other women shared similar stories with investigators who looked into the matter, according to a confidential memo that was leaked this week.

The AP does not identify al-

leged victims of sexual misconduct or assault unless they come forward publicly, as the two women did. Indiana's sexual battery statute says it's a felony to touch "another person's genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female breast when that person is unaware."

That's what Candelaria Reardon has accused Hill of doing.

"I am not anonymous. I am a wife, mother, business owner and a state representative. I am also a victim of sexual battery, perpetrated by Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill," she wrote in the piece.

Hill is a staunch social conservative who is married and had been viewed as a rising star in the Republican Party since his election in 2016. The former Elkhart County prosecutor is an Elvis impersonator who has relished punditry appearances on Fox News. In May, he warmed up the crowd during a rally held in his hometown by President Donald Trump, who gave Hill a shoutout for being a "good man" who's "done a great job." □



In this Nov. 27, 2017, file photo, Leandra English, who was elevated to interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by its outgoing director, attends a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Leandra English, who sued Trump, to resign from CFPB

By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Leandra English, the deputy director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau who unsuccessfully sued President Donald Trump for control of the consumer watchdog agency, said Friday she plans to resign next week.

English was the chief of staff for Richard Cordray, President Barack Obama's

director of the bureau. She was promoted to deputy director shortly before Cordray resigned in late November. Citing the law that created the bureau, English and Cordray both argued that she was now the acting director of the bureau.

President Trump, citing longstanding laws over presidential appointees, named his budget director, Mick Mulvaney, as acting direc-

tor of the bureau. It created a standoff between the White House and the CFPB, and it was unclear for several days who was actually in charge of the bureau.

English quickly sued to block Mulvaney's appointment, but federal judges repeatedly ruled that President Trump had the power to appoint who he wanted into federal agencies. After Mulvaney was clearly in control of the bureau, English was largely sidelined by the current administration. □

Wisconsin high court sides with fired conservative professor

By IVAN MORENO

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A former Marquette University professor who wrote a blog post criticizing a student instructor he believed shut down debate against gay marriage shouldn't have lost his job because of what he published, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled Friday.

The 120-page decision concluded that the private Catholic school breached its contract with professor John McAdams that guaranteed academic freedom and that he should be immediately reinstated. The university said it would comply with the ruling.

The court's 4-2 decision came down on ideological lines, with the conservative majority siding with McAdams. Those justices said the faculty panel that recommended his discipline had an "unacceptable bias" because one member had publicly expressed support for the graduate instructor. The liberal justices called the decision "far reaching" and said academic freedom "does not protect McAdams from discipline" if his peers concluded he acted unprofessionally. One justice didn't participate in the ruling.

McAdams sued the university in 2016, arguing that he lost his job for exercising freedom of speech. Marquette said he wasn't fired for the content of his 2014 post, but because he named the instructor and linked to her personal website that had personal identifying information.

"That's not academic freedom. That's cyberbullying," Ralph Weber, Marquette's attorney, said Friday.

The instructor, a graduate student, later received a flood of hateful messages and threats, and at one point needed a security guard stationed outside her class. She eventually moved to another university where she had to repeat three semesters and revise her Ph.D. thesis.

The case has been closely watched by conservatives who see universities as liberal havens, as well as private businesses that want control over employee discipline.

In the November 2014 blog post, McAdams described an interaction between a conservative student and a graduate student instructor of philosophy. The student claimed the instructor refused to allow discussion about opposition to gay marriage during a class

and provided McAdams with a recording he secretly made of a conversation with the teacher after the class.

That formed the basis for McAdams' post, in which he argued that the students' experience was another example of liberals silencing people whose opinions they disagree with or find offensive. The post included the student-teacher's name, a link to her personal website and her email address.

In its Friday ruling, the court's conservative majority said McAdams' blog post can't be blamed for the harassment against the instructor.

"Just because vile commentary followed the blog post does not mean the blog post instigated or invited the vileness," the majority's written opinion said. Liberal justices who dissented said conservatives ignored the fact that McAdams promoted his post to national media outlets knowing the backlash the student could receive, once writing that when something gets widespread attention, it's possible "some jerks are going to say nasty things."

"McAdams indeed did 'instigate' or 'invite' the vile-



In this May 2, 2016, file photo Marquette University professor John McAdams speaks at a news conference in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

ness that followed his blog post. He knew what would happen, and he actively ensured that it would happen," the dissenting justices wrote.

They called McAdams' behavior reckless and contrary to the university's professional standards.

McAdams' attorney, Rick Esenberg, said he disagreed with the liberal justices' conclusion that academic freedom shouldn't protect the professor from discipline.

"I think it's just flat wrong. The whole purpose of academic freedom is to allow people in the university community to express themselves without fear of sanctions," he said.

He said McAdams intends to teach again at Marquette, though it's unclear when that will happen.

McAdams published his post on his personal website, "Marquette Warrior," which he has used for more than a decade to condemn political correctness and the silencing of ideas that might be hurtful to protected classes, according to his lawsuit against the school.

McAdams was given the chance to return to work after his suspension, provided he write a letter apologizing for his conduct. The letter was to be shared confidentially with the student instructor, but McAdams refused to write it. □

Court: Louisiana oil pipeline construction can continue

By KEVIN MCGILL and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Construction of a crude oil pipeline through Louisiana's environmentally fragile Atchafalaya Basin swamp

can continue under a federal appeals court decision handed down Friday.

A divided panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a lower court's preliminary injunction blocking construction

of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline.

The 2-1 decision was a victory for Bayou Bridge Pipeline LLC, whose lawyers had urged the panel to throw out U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick's injunction in April.

Dick issued a preliminary injunction in February stopping pipeline construction in the Atchafalaya Basin swamp until a lawsuit by

project opponents is resolved.

But her injunction was suspended by a 5th Circuit panel in March, so construction continued even before Friday's ruling.

The company recently told the court that it expects to complete construction by October.

The decision comes in a lawsuit by environmental

groups, including Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Waterkeeper Alliance, The Gulf Restoration Network and the Sierra Club. They sued Bayou Bridge Pipeline LLC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lawsuit says the Corps violated the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws when it approved a permit for the project. □



In this Friday, April 27, 2018 photo, a old logging canal cuts through Bayou Sorrel in the Atchafalaya River Basin in Louisiana.

Associated Press

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APNewsBreak: U.S. Army quietly discharging immigrant recruits

By **MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE**

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some immigrant U.S. Army reservists and recruits who enlisted in the military with a promised path to citizenship are being abruptly discharged, the Associated Press has learned.

The AP was unable to quantify how many men and women who enlisted through the special recruitment program have been booted from the Army, but immigration attorneys say they know of more than 40 who have been discharged or whose status has become questionable, jeopardizing their futures.

"It was my dream to serve in the military," said reservist Lucas Calixto, a Brazilian immigrant who filed a lawsuit against the Army last week. "Since this country has been so good to me, I thought it was the least I could do to give back to my adopted country and serve in the United States military."

Some of the service members say they were not told why they were being discharged. Others who pressed for answers said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them. Spokespeople for the Pentagon and the Army said that, due to the pending litigation, they were unable to explain the discharges or respond to questions about whether there have been policy changes in any of the military branches.

Eligible recruits are required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. More than 5,000 immigrants were recruited into the program in 2016, and an estimated 10,000 are currently serving. Most go the Army, but some also go to the other military branches.

To become citizens, the service members need an honorable service designation, which can come after even just a few days at boot camp. But the re-

cently discharged service members have had their basic training delayed, so they can't be naturalized.

Margaret Stock, an Alaska-based immigration attorney and a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel who helped create the immigrant recruitment pro-

gram, said she's been inundated over the past several days by recruits who have been abruptly discharged.

All had signed enlistment contracts and taken an Army oath, Stock said.

Many were reservists who had been attending unit drills, receiving pay and undergoing training, while others had been in a "delayed entry" program, she said.



In this Tuesday, July 3, 2018, photo, a Pakistani recruit, 22, who was recently discharged from the U.S. Army, holds an American flag as he poses for a picture.

Associated Press

gram, said she's been inundated over the past several days by recruits who have been abruptly discharged. All had signed enlistment contracts and taken an Army oath, Stock said. Many were reservists who had been attending unit drills, receiving pay and undergoing training, while others had been in a "delayed entry" program, she said.

"Immigrants have been serving in the Army since 1775," Stock said. "We wouldn't have won the revolution without immigrants. And we're not going to win the global war on terrorism today without immigrants." Stock said the service members she's heard from had been told the Defense Department had not managed to put them through extensive background checks, which include CIA, FBI and National Intelligence Agency screenings and counterintelligence interviews. Therefore, by default, they do not meet

the background check requirement. "It's a vicious cycle," she said.

The AP interviewed Calixto and recruits from Pakistan and Iran, all of whom said they were devastated by their unexpected discharges.

Calixto, who lives in Massachusetts and came to the U.S. when he was 12, said in an email interview arranged through his attorney that he joined the Army out of patriotism.

In the suit, Calixto said he learned he was being kicked out soon after he was promoted to private second class.

The Pakistani service member who spoke to the AP said he learned in a phone call a few weeks ago that his military career was over. "There were so many tears in my eyes that my hands

couldn't move fast enough to wipe them away," he said. "I was devastated, because I love the U.S. and was so honored to be able to serve this great country." He asked that his name be withheld because he fears he might be forced to return to Pakistan, where he

"It's terrible because I put my life in the line for this country, but I feel like I'm being treated like trash," he said. "If I am not eligible to become a U.S. citizen, I am really scared to return to my country."

He spoke on condition of anonymity because of those fears.

It's unclear how the service members' discharges could affect their status as legal immigrants.

In a statement, the Defense Department said: "All service members (i.e. contracted recruits, active duty, Guard and Reserve) and those with an honorable discharge are protected from deportation."

However, immigration attorneys told the AP that many immigrants let go in recent weeks were an "uncharacterized discharge," neither dishonorable nor honorable.

The service members affected by the recent discharges all enlisted in recent years under a special program aimed at bringing medical specialists and fluent speakers of 44 sought-after languages into the military. The idea, according to the Defense Department, was to "recognize their contribution and sacrifice." President George W. Bush ordered "expedited naturalization" for immigrant soldiers in 2002 in an effort to swell military ranks. Seven years later the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, known as MAVNI, became an official recruiting program. It came under fire from conservatives when President Barack Obama added DACA recipients — young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally — to the list of eligible enlistees. In response, the military layered on additional security clearances for recruits to pass before heading to boot camp.

The Trump Administration added even more hurdles, creating a backlog within the Defense Department. Last fall, hundreds of recruits still in the enlistment process had their contracts canceled. □



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Southern California hit by record-breaking heat wave

By JOHN ANTCHAK, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Southern California sizzled Friday in record-breaking heat from the desert to the sea, with widespread triple-digit highs and withering conditions that stoked wildfires.

Officials urged people to take advantage of cooling centers in libraries and other facilities and to watch out for the elderly and very young, warning that minor heat-related illnesses can worsen quickly.

Sidewalks and outdoor lunch tables were left to the blazing sun. Firefighters worked in extreme temperatures as they battled outbreaks of wildfires, including a destructive blaze in the San Diego County community of Alpine and another that spread from a truck fire on Interstate 15 in Cajon Pass east of Los Angeles. Torrid conditions were expected to last through Saturday before easing a bit Sunday.

The heat was being produced by a “humongous” dome of high pressure that was also spreading oppressive conditions into parts of Arizona, Nevada and Utah, the National Weather Service said.

“Today will be one for the record books,” the Los Angeles region weather office said before sunrise — and within a few hours records began to fall.

In downtown Los Angeles, it was only 10:15 a.m. when the mercury topped the July 6 mark of 94 degrees (34.4 Celsius) set in 1992 and kept on rising, hitting 100 (37.7 Celsius) before noon and continuing upward.

LA’s Woodland Hills neighborhood was a record 115 degrees (46.1 Celsius) by early afternoon, just a few



A construction worker rehydrates on site during a blistering day of heat in downtown Los Angeles on Friday, July 6, 2018.

degrees behind the 119 punishing the aptly named community of Thermal in the low desert southeast of Palm Springs. Southeast

of Los Angeles in Orange County, Los Alamitos Race Course canceled daytime racing after two races because of the heat.

The offshore flow of air pushing back the normal moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean had produced startling early

morning temperatures: At 3 a.m., it was 98 degrees (36.6 Celsius) in Gaviota on the Santa Barbara County coast about 125 miles west of Los Angeles, the weather service said.

While beaches offered relief from the furnace-like conditions, forecasters warned that a lingering south swell from former Hurricane Fabio would continue to combine with a local northwest swell to produce dangerous rip currents and the possibility of sneaker waves.

Residents toughing it out in the valleys around Los Angeles and in the inland region to the east faced the possibility of unhealthy air quality. Air pollution regulators said the conditions were likely to produce an atmospheric inversion that would increase ground-level ozone, which is linked to a host of respiratory troubles ranging from trouble breathing to asthma attacks. □

Associated Press

Boat that ferried passengers to Boblo Island catches fire

DETROIT (AP) — A floating piece of Detroit nostalgia was gutted by fire Friday as flames roared through one of two historic steamships that once ferried people from the city to an island amusement park in the Detroit River.

The SS Ste. Claire caught fire while docked at a marina east of downtown.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation. Work was being done on the boat before the fire started about 11:30 a.m., according to senior fire chief Geoffrey Rhodes.

Police and fire officials said it was doubtful the aging vessel could be salvaged.

“It’s an iconic piece of his-

tory ... a lot of history,” police Chief James Craig said. Ste. Claire owner Ron Kattoo called the fire and damage “heartbreaking” as firefighters on the dock doused the flames with hoses. Usually loaded with passengers, the Ste. Claire and SS Columbia traveled for decades between Detroit and Boblo Island in Canada, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) away. The three-story, 197-foot Ste. Claire was built in 1910. The Columbia was launched in 1902. The boats made their last runs in 1991, and the amusement park closed two years later.

Both steamships were designated National Historic



The SS Ste. Claire lists port side after catching fire at Detroit’s Riverside Marina on Friday, July 6, 2018.

Landmarks in 1992.

The Columbia was sold and moved by tugboat in 2014 to Toledo, Ohio, for repairs

before heading on to New York state, where it was to be restored as a floating museum. □

Associated Press

After marathon meeting, UK leaders endorse Brexit trade plan

By JILL LAWLESS

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May corralled her Cabinet inside an English country house for a long, hot day Friday, and announced that the divided government had finally agreed on a plan for a future free-trade deal with the European Union. The proposal aims to keep the U.K. and the bloc in a free-trade zone for goods, but not for services, which make up the bulk of the British economy.

After almost 12 hours of talks at Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat, May said that "the Cabinet has agreed our collective position for the future of our negotiations with the EU" — a pronouncement akin to the British government equivalent of white smoke from the Vatican announcing the election of a new pope.

But getting the Conservative government to agree with itself may be the easy part. As ministers met behind closed doors — and without their phones, to prevent snooping and leaks — the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, warned the bloc would not accept anything that treated the union's single market, which allows the free flow of goods and services, as a "big supermarket."

After the British statement, Barnier tweeted that the EU would "assess proposals to see if they are workable & realistic." At first glance the British proposals sit uneasily with repeated EU warnings that the U.K. cannot "cherry pick" the benefits of EU membership, such as access to the tariff-free customs union and single market, without accepting the responsibilities, which include allowing the free movement of EU citizens to the U.K. The U.K. is firm that it will end free movement, as well as the jurisdiction of the EU's top court in British affairs. Friday's meeting at the 16th-century manor house 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of London came with just nine months to go until the U.K. leaves the bloc, and with the EU



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street in London, bound for the House of Commons to face Prime Minister's Questions, Wednesday July 4, 2018.

Associated Press

warning that time is running out to seal a divorce deal. Currently Britain is part of the EU's single market — which allows for the frictionless flow of goods and services among the 28 member states — and its tariff-free customs union for goods. That will end after Brexit, but what will replace it remains unclear.

Ever since Britain voted to leave the EU two years ago, its government has been divided between Brexit-backing ministers who want a sharp break from the EU so the U.K. can strike new trade deals around the world, and a more pro-EU

group that wants to avoid tariffs and other friction between the U.K. and its biggest trading partner.

That view has been echoed by big manufacturers, including Airbus and Jaguar Land Rover, who warn they could abandon Britain if the EU and the U.K. cannot strike a strong free trade deal. Airbus alone employs some 14,000 workers in Britain.

Airbus chief executive Tom Enders slammed Britain's divided government early Friday, saying "Her Majesty's government still has no clue, or at least no consensus, on how to execute

Brexit without severe harm." Leading pro-Brexit Cabinet ministers, including Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit Secretary David Davis, met in private on the eve of Friday's meeting, sparking rumors some could quit rather than agree to May's proposal.

For now, though, May appears to have united the pro-Brexit and pro-EU wings of her government behind a compromise. Under the proposals — which will be published in detail next week — Britain would agree to maintain the same rules as the bloc for trade in goods and agricul-

tural products.

The U.K. will also promise to keep "high regulatory standards" for areas including the environment and employment law, which could ease fears among unions and others that the government plans to slash standards to secure new trade deals.

Under the plan, however, Britain will not seek to stay in the single market for services. The government said it recognized that meant the U.K. and the EU would have less access to each other's markets than they do now. On customs, the plan calls for the U.K. to use technology at the border to determine whether goods are bound for Britain or the EU, and to charge the appropriate tariffs.

May said the plan would "avoid friction in terms of trade, which protects jobs and livelihoods" — a key concern of ministers who want a "soft" Brexit. She said it would also leave Britain free to strike new trade deals around the world, a major preoccupation of government Brexiteers.

Britain said the proposal would also solve the problem of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which will be the U.K.'s only land frontier with an EU member after Brexit. Britain has promised to maintain an invisible border, free of customs posts and other infrastructure, but until now has not said how it plans to achieve that.

In a tacit acknowledgment that Brussels may not like the proposals, the British government said it would step up preparations for a "no deal" Brexit — though it said it strongly favored an agreement.

Initial business reaction was positive. Carolyn Fairbairn, head of the Confederation of British Industry, said the agreement was "a genuine confidence boost."

But arch-euroskeptics accused the government of a betraying Brexit. Former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage said the proposal was "a sell-out to the global corporates." □

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Feminists, animal rights groups reshape Pamplona bull fest

By ARITZ PARRA

The Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP) —

The topics of sexual abuse and animal cruelty are dominating this year's San Fermin festival in Pamplona, which kicks off Friday for nine days and eight nights of round-the-clock alcohol-soaked partying, traditional celebrations and dangerous bull runs.

It's not a full-blown identity crisis yet, but the festival in northern Spain popularized by American novelist Ernest Hemingway and seen by critics as a macho proving ground with a violent streak is slowly adapting to the social awareness brought by a new generation.

Sexual assaults reported during the festival went from two in 2008 — the year a local woman was murdered after she refused to have sex with her killer — to 20 in 2016, when five men cornered an 18-year old, filmed themselves sexually attacking her and left after stealing her phone. The figures, from a study by the Public University of Navarra, rose to 22 last year amid growing public outrage.

"I don't want my city to be known as a place for rampant sexual abuse or the torture of animals," said Jana Uriz, 32, a local animal-rights activist among those demanding a "sexual-abuse free" festival.

Authorities have been able to identify suspects in nearly 95 percent of the cases in Pamplona, where the 2016 "Wolfpack case" — named after the WhatsApp group the perpetrators used to share their abuse videos —



Demonstrators protest against bullfighting in front of the City Hall a day before of the famous San Fermin festival, in Pamplona, northern Spain, Thursday, July 5, 2018.

Associated Press

marked a tipping point that galvanized Spain's own #MeToo movement.

Outrage fueled protests in the streets after a provincial court cleared the five men of rape charges and sentenced them to nine years behind bars on a lesser charge of sexual abuse. The government launched a revision of the punishments for sexual crimes, but when the men were released on bail last month pending a decision on their appeal, angry crowds again hit the streets.

Authorities in Pamplona responded by improving their handling of victims, stepping up police surveillance and training and launching 24-hour hotlines and a new mobile app that allows the instant reporting of abuse, including victims' real-time

locations.

But for some activists, the measures are not enough. Naia Mira, 22, was among hundreds of women, most in their twenties, marching in Pamplona on Wednesday night, holding banners denouncing what they call a patriarchy that permeates all levels of life in Spain. "Fear needs to change sides," said Mira, adding that distrust in the judicial system is pushing some feminists to push for more self-defense.

The city's left-wing mayor, Joseba Asiron, says that "Pamplona is leading the push against sexual aggression," as officials reassure visitors that the festival is safe for both women and men to enjoy.

But Asiron, a 56-year-old historian whose term ends

next spring, has also raised eyebrows ahead of this year's festival by questioning the future of bullfights, a tradition at the core of the festival.

"I don't envision a San Fermin festival without the bull runs, but I do see them happening one day without the corridas (bullfights)," he said.

Those remarks prompted angry bull breeders to answer that, without the bull fights, Asiron could forget about the bull runs. The Toro de Lidia foundation, which groups bull-related businesses and aficionados, claimed the industry injects 74 million euros (\$86.5 million) into the city's coffers each year.

Six bulls complete the 930-yard (850-meter) course to Pamplona's bullring, where

they are usually killed in televised bullfights during eight consecutive afternoons.

Owners of private balconies overlooking the action charge spectators 140 euros (\$164) per person to view the bulls and the runners careening down the town's ancient streets.

"Once you open that door, there is no way back to save the running of the bulls without having them sacrificed in the bullring," said Juan Cuesta, a 55-year-old Pamplona resident who looked on Thursday as over 100 animal rights activists protested the festival.

"I respect their opinion, but this is a wider debate that doesn't need to come from politicians, but rather from society," Cuesta added. "Right now, I don't see the majority of people in Pamplona ready to give up on the DNA of San Fermin."

The annual pro-animal rights protest on the eve of the festival used to go largely snubbed in Pamplona, but activists said more locals, especially younger people, have joined their campaigns in recent years as partial bans on bullfighting spread over dozens of Spanish towns.

Since the Spanish constitution protects corridas as part of the nation's cultural heritage, new regulations usually aim at turning them into blood-free shows, banning any torment to the bull. They also forbid the consumption of alcohol and access for minors, while imposing anti-doping checks for animals and matadors. □

Toxic tanneries forced to move pollute new Bangladesh site

By JULHAS ALAM
MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

SAVAR, Bangladesh (AP)

— Bangladesh tanneries prepping leather for shoes, belts, wallets and purses are dumping toxic chemicals into a river at a new industrial complex more than a year after the government shut them down for poisoning a different river and using child labor.

"It's killing the river. The color of the water has changed," Abdus Shakur, a local resident who works as a day laborer, told The Associated Press last week. "I have been living here for decades and the condition of the river has changed dramatically over the last year."

Turning cow hides into soft, hair-free leather can be a dirty business, and in the Hazaribagh neighborhood of Dhaka, the former home to more than 150 tanneries, the air a year ago was so noxious with chemicals and rotting hide trimmings that it was repeatedly named one of the most polluted places on earth by environmentalists. The adjacent Buriganga River, a source of drinking water for 180,000 people, was considered poisoned.

In April 2017, under international pressure, the government shut off power at the Hazaribagh tanneries, ordering them to move to a new tannery industrial complex in Savar.

Now the AP has learned that factories at the new location are draining chemicals into the Daleshwari River and dumping toxic waste in open fields. Although there are sewage treatment and effluent systems, they are inadequate to process all of the waste. "This was a disaster foretold," said Richard Pearshouse, associate director of the environment program at Human Rights Watch. "Everyone convinced themselves that the main issue was technical — a lack of a central effluent treatment plant — and not political. But Bangladesh's tanning industry will be plagued by its fundamental problems



In this Thursday, June 28, 2018, photo, a Bangladeshi worker sits on top of tannery waste loaded in a truck at Tannery Industrial Area in Savar, Bangladesh.

— child labor, occupational and environmental health dangers — until government authorities finally get serious about enforcing laws."

New York-based Transparentem, a labor rights non-profit group, is calling on American and European companies that sourced leather in Hazaribagh — or had items made by companies that also owned tanneries there — to help clean up the mess left behind.

The companies include Clarks, Coach, Kate Spade, Macy's, Michael Kors, Sears, Steven Madden and Timberland. It is also calling on Germany-based Deichmann, a shoe and sportswear chain, and two U.S. firms — Harbor Footwear Group and Genesco — that design and market shoes in even more brands to help.

"The primary onus is on Bangladesh's government and leather industry to clean up Hazaribagh and prevent another full-scale environmental catastrophe in Savar," said Transparentem president E Benjamin Skinner. "Brands that have bought from manufacturers affiliated with tanneries in either location have leverage, and thus share in the responsibility for reform."

Undercover investigators have not followed a specific piece of leather to a particular purse or shoe. Supply chains take a few steps, sometimes dozens, to get from the source of a product to an item on a store shelf.

Transparentem is also calling on buyers to use their collective leverage to advocate for better waste treatment facilities in Savar. All of the companies that

responded said they no longer get any leather from tanneries in Bangladesh. Some said they never did. Macy's, Timberland and Clark continue to have products made there.

"Clarks has no direct or indirect relationship with any tannery in Bangladesh," the company said in a statement. Its Bangladesh manufacturer sources all of its leather from outside the country, and the company continuously audits all of its partners, the statement said.

At the new Savar industrial center, an AP reporter found that a central effluent treatment plant had yet to be fully functional, contradicting claims from authorities that it's been reinforced.

Chinese engineers working on the plant refused to talk. In addition to delayed operations at the effluent

treatment plant, a new problem has started: repeated breaches in the embankment of a pond where solid waste is supposed to be held. This is allowing more pollution — mixed with rainwater — to flow into the river.

"This is worrying. The embankment has been repaired repeatedly, but because of the monsoon, the breaches developed again," said Delowar Hosain, a plant consultant.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement, said last week that the new site has multiple infrastructural deficiencies, causing serious pollution in the area.

"It's killing the river, it's poisoning soil and it's destroying the whole environment," Khan said. "Dangerous chemicals are still flowing into the river."

It's clear, he said, that relocating the toxic leather tanning factories from intensely polluted Hazaribagh has just moved the environmental disaster to another place.

"It seems the government does not care for the environment. Similar things are happening here," Khan said. "It's really frustrating that authorities are failing to understand the serious environmental consequences from pollution, which could be averted."

Khan said their complaints "are falling into deaf ears." Bangladeshi leather-goods manufacturers were reluctant to comment.

An official at a leading exporting factory said Friday that the company shouldn't suffer for the failure of the authorities.

"We have lodged complaints again and again, but still the effluent treatment plant is not fully functional and the pace of development inside the tannery belt is very slow," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing retribution.

"The government has shouldered all responsibilities for preparing all infrastructures of the new site," he said. "We have nothing to contribute here." □

Associated Press

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Cult leader executed for Japan sarin attacks still a mystery

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

TOKYO (AP) — The execution of Japanese doomsday cult leader Shoko Asahara leaves unanswered questions about Aum Shinrikyo, which carried out the 1995 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway that killed 13 people and sickened 6,000.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga confirmed that Asahara was executed Friday. The authorities said six other cult members were hanged.

Born Chizuo Matsumoto in 1955, Asahara founded Aum Shinrikyo, or Supreme Truth, in the mid-1980s. It attracted young people disillusioned with the modern materialistic way of life.

Half-blind, with a shaggy hair and beard, Asahara was the key figure in the stunningly random and lethal attack targeting Tokyo commuters.

He used a mixture of Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and yoga to draw followers. They took part in bizarre rituals, such as drinking his bathwater and wearing electrical caps they believed synchronized their brain waves with Asahara's. Asahara chose doctors, lawyers and scientists from Japan's top universities as his top aides, making them ministers of his pseudo-government of the Aum empire. They worshipped him and carried out his orders. The group used donations from followers and earnings from yoga classes and health food businesses to amass cash to buy land and equipment. They made and bought con-



In this undated file photo, cult guru Shoko Asahara, of Aum Shinrikyo walks with Yoshihiro Inoue, then a close aid, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

ventional weapons in and outside Japan, while the scientists he had recruited developed and manufactured sarin, VX and other deadly chemical and biological weapons.

During his trial, Asahara often used diapers and sat on a cushion intended to make his incontinence inconspicuous. He stopped communicating with his children and defense team.

A court-appointed psychiatrist suggested he might be faking insanity to avoid punishment. The initial death sentence in 2004 became final after his defense team could not file an appeal citing his mental state.

In a rare interview in 2006, two of Asahara's four daughters told The Associated Press that never in dozens of visits to him in prison had they had a real conversation.

Asahara just sat and at times fidgeted or grunted. The daughters' repeated petitions for retrials were refused. They said his condition might have worsened since the last being allowed to see him in 2008. Yoshihiro Yasuda, Asahara's main lawyer during his trial, said the last time he was allowed to see Asahara at the detention center was in 2006. After that, the Tokyo detention center rejected requests for meetings with

Asahara more than 400 times, citing the absence of a reaction from Asahara. Yasuda sought medical treatment for Asahara and said in April 2018 that he had appealed for his release.

The reasons behind the sarin gas attack remain an enigma.

Cult members have said they believed Asahara's prophecy that an apocalypse was coming and they alone would survive it.

Even before the attack, in 1989, lawyer Tsutsumi Sakamoto, who opposed the cult, his wife and baby boy were murdered by cult members.

Tomomasa Nakagawa,

a doctor also executed Friday, and several other cultists broke into the Sakamoto's apartment late at night, strangled them to death and buried them in the mountains.

Cult activities escalated after the defeat of Aum members in the 1990 parliamentary election. During their bizarre election campaign, Asahara and his top disciples sang and danced to the guru's songs.

In June 1994, the cult spread sarin gas in Matsumoto in central Japan, killing eight people and injuring more than 140 others, in an attack targeting residents who were protesting the cult's presence in their neighborhood and court officials handling their legal disputes. Nakagawa and key members produced sarin at a cult compound and sprayed it from a van, in what was later regarded as an experiment for the subsequent subway gassing.

Under intensifying scrutiny from the government, the cult plotted the larger sarin attack on the subways in Tokyo on March 20, 1995.

Asahara guided the attack, according to testimony by his right-hand man, Yoshihiro Inoue, who also was executed Friday. Inoue headed Aum's intelligence unit and was one of the few cult members who later turned against Asahara. The five cultists who carried bags of sarin onto the trains targeted three subway lines converging at Kasumigaseki, Japan's government and political center similar equivalent to Washington's Capitol Hill. □

In embattled Venezuela, beauty offers ladder out of poverty

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— At a small home with a leaking tin roof near Venezuela's capital, Johandrys Colls proudly shows off two metal crowns with plastic gemstones and nine satin sashes won in local beauty pageants.

The 16-year-old daughter of a butcher and a teacher is pinning her hopes for a future free of poverty on a single goal: rising through the world of pageants and becoming an international beauty queen.

"These sashes represent a huge accomplishment for me," says the skinny teen with dark brown eyes as she pushes her long black hair from one side to another. "I accomplished what I set out to achieve."

While growing concern about sexism and the rise of the #MeToo movement recently led the Miss America contest to drop swimsuit competitions and emphasize personal accomplishment, in Latin America young women continue to flock to competitions where good looks are unabashedly championed above all else.

In Venezuela, competing comes at a high price: Elaborate sequined gowns and pricey cosmetic surgeries are out of reach for most in a country where inflation is running in the five digits and state workers earn about \$3 a month. Earlier this year the Miss Venezuela pageant was rocked by accusations that some contenders finance their journey to the crown by finding wealthy men to pay for gowns and surgeries in exchange for sex.

But even alarming charges like those have done little to deter young women like Colls, whose parents have enrolled her in one of Venezuela's top modeling schools despite their modest income in hopes of transforming their daughter into a beauty queen.

"I hope the values and education I am instilling in my daughter serve her well," said Lisbeth Linarez, the teen's mother.



In this July 1, 2018 photo, two beauty contest crowns and sashes won by Johandrys Colls, are displayed on a table at the living room of her home, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

"So that in the future if anything bad might come her way, she knows how to ward it off."

After oil, beauty queens may be Venezuela's biggest export: Women from the South American nation have captured seven Miss Universe titles and crown holders have gone on to notable careers as actresses, journalists and even presidential candidates.

When the annual Miss Venezuela pageant is aired on television, millions tune in, paralyzed in suspense as contestants parade on stage in neon-colored bikinis while their measurements are read aloud and they answer questions like how they would draw people back to the waning Roman Catholic church.

As the nation plummets into economic ruin, even more young women are holding fast to dreams of becoming beauty queens.

At a recent casting for the Nuestra Belleza Venezuela contest, a pack of teens and 20-something women donned towering heels and coated their lips in glossy pink hues before strutting in front of judges. Among them was Oxlania Oropeza, a law student, who said the recent Miss Venezuela scandal hadn't quashed her ambitions.

"My values are intact and no one can take that away from me," she said. "From the time I was 6 years old, my goal has been to become Miss Venezuela."

In Venezuela, one man has ruled as king in transforming fledgling ingenues into flawless beauty queens: Osmel Sousa.

The so-called "Czar of Beauty" led the Miss Venezuela pageant for nearly four decades before leaving the organization in February as accusations spread on social media that or-

ganizers had arranged for some contestants to work as escorts for high-ranking government officials in exchange for glimmering jewels, elegant gowns and cosmetic surgeries.

The Miss Venezuela contest suspended operations amid the outcry.

Sousa has denied any claims suggesting he played a role in helping contestants find so-called "sponsors" and several candidates have spoken out in his defense. Still, multiple women have come forward to say that finding a well-off man to back their pageant aspirations has long been a common practice.

Patricia Velasquez, a contestant in the 1989 Miss Venezuela pageant, wrote in her memoir about feeling obliged to enter a relationship with an older man who found her an apartment in Caracas and paid for

breast implants.

"I quickly learned that getting into the Miss Venezuela contest meant I would have to start prostituting myself in order to find a sponsor," she wrote. "Not everyone needed to go to such lengths, but that was my reality."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Sousa said that if any wrongdoing was committed, those responsible should be held accountable. He recently launched a new pageant called "The Contest" that will still feature a swimsuit segment, which he defended as an important demonstration of style, physique and health.

"Watching the swimsuit competition is practically the most important part," Sousa said from the lobby of a posh Arabic restaurant in Caracas.

Some like Esther Pineda, an expert in women's studies, believe the continued popularity of beauty pageants in Venezuela is also an indication of how deeply sexist the country remains.

Even as more women occupy seats in Congress and become business leaders throughout Latin America, a culture where looks are prized above intellect remains prevalent. The #MeToo movement that has toppled the careers of Hollywood luminaries and political heavyweights has registered little more than a ripple in Venezuela.

Few believe that Venezuelan pageants are likely to emulate the recent decision by the Miss America pageant to nix the swimsuit segment.

"Physical beauty is seen as a value," Pineda said. "And it's given more importance than any other attribute."

Colls still remembers watching the Miss Venezuela pageant with her family at 6-years-old and then stealing her mom's high heels to imitate the beauty queens on screen.

"It's inspiring," she said, her lips curling into a smile at the memory. "It's something beautiful to see them compete and share their talent with the world." □

LOCAL



ATSA timeshare landscape overview

ORANJESTAD — In honor of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Timeshare Industry in Aruba, a report was commissioned by the Aruba Timeshare Association, ATSA, to provide an overview of the island's timeshare landscape from data collected in 2017. The report was commissioned in collaboration with Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, and prepared by the University of Aruba, UA.

The following is the fourth article in a series of six, summarizing the report. In one of the section of the survey conducted in order to compile the report, respondents were to report on their satisfaction with their most recent timeshare usage in Aruba. Findings show that 62% of the respondents were extremely satisfied and 24% were very satisfied. The average timeshare owner has a very strong positive feeling of satisfaction about their last visit and usage of their timeshare here. In order to explore in more detail, the answer to the research question noted above, respondents were asked to rate their personal experiences with timeshare on Aruba. The first question listed 19 attributes regarding timeshare and respondents were asked to compare their experience with their expectations.

All the perceptions of each of the individual attributes related to the quality of timeshare exceeded expectations. Among the attributes, climate and weather were ranked the highest.

Other highly rated attributes were: warmth and kindness of the people, quality of the beaches, and choice of restaurants. The lowest rated items, although still above the neutral rating were: sightseeing

and tours, nightlife and entertainment, transport and traffic, and land and sea activities, which could be reflective of the age of the respondents. Respondents were then asked to select the three most important terms when describing how they perceived the mood or atmosphere in Aruba

weather, friendly and happy people. The least selected items were parties and dancing, golf, and exotic experiences, as these were all viewed as not distinctive or unique about Aruba. The next question asked respondents to describe their current timeshare experiences here. The se-

will definitely or most likely return to the island, which makes sense since they are timeshare owners. The respondents also would recommend that others visit Aruba and that others purchase timeshare in Aruba. However, results show that it is very unlikely that respondents would repur-

spondents relate relaxing, happy and friendly with the atmosphere in Aruba. They do not, however, find parties and dancing, golf or the exotic experience to be distinctive or unique on Aruba. These findings show that there are some focus areas that Aruba can use to increase its opportunity to continue to impress guests. The repeat intentions of guests and word of mouth to friends is very high, but the repurchase or recommendation of buying a timeshare could be improved.

SATISFACTION, RETURN INTENTIONS AND PERCEPTIONS

A multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) was also conducted on the three dependent variables -- overall satisfaction, return intention, and perception of timeshare experience, in order to determine if there were any statistically significant differences between demographics including age, income, gender, and the number of visits to Aruba.

The results show that older respondents have stronger return intentions, but overall satisfaction and the perception of the timeshare experience decreases when compared to younger respondents. Higher income respondents have more positive feelings about Aruba and the timeshare experience. Regarding spending data, males spend more money than females in all categories but gambling where there are no significant differences.

Younger respondents spend more money on watersports, and overall, higher income respondents spent more money than respondents with lower income, which should be expected. □



during their most recent stay. Most people perceived the atmosphere in Aruba as a relaxing environment, happy, and friendly.

Respondents were also asked about their perceptions regarding the most distinctive or unique characteristics that they would associate with their vacation in Aruba and they could select three of the options listed. Most of the people think that the unique characteristics in an Aruba vacation are white beaches and turquoise ocean, tropical climate and sunny

lections were 1=ecstatic and genuinely delightful, 2=very pleasant, 3=pleasant, 4=average, 5=unhappy, 6=awful and terrible.

The results showed that the average respondents rated their Aruba timeshare experiences as ecstatic and genuinely delightful. Only 11 respondents out of 2090 rated their experience as unhappy or awful and terrible (0.5%). This shows a high level of satisfaction and positive feelings related to the Aruba timeshare experience. Moreover, most of the respondents think they

chase another timeshare in the future in the same resort, or in another resort.

In summary, it appears that timeshare owners are very happy with the timeshare product, but there are a few items that did not completely exceed their expectations including, sightseeing and tours, nightlife and entertainment, transport and traffic. These items may be rated lower due to the amount of time the respondents have been to Aruba. They may have been on the tours and are not happy with the traffic here. Re-

Riu Palace Antillas celebrated Independence Day with a delicious BBQ



ORANJESTAD — Riu Palace Antillas celebrated on July 4th the independence day of USA. This day was celebrated in Palm Beach Restaurant with a delicious

BBQ, where the tourists enjoyed it. The restaurant was decorated with USA flags and the tourists celebrated the independence day of their country. The guests

enjoyed a delicious BBQ that Riu Palace Antillas prepared for them on this special day.

Continued on Page 15



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Riu Palace Antillas celebrated Independence Day with a delicious BBQ



Continued from Page 14

The guests were proud and happy with the gesture of the hotel on this special day. Some of the guests were so happy and were celebrating the independence day waving the USA flag.

The event was a success for Riu Palace Antillas demonstrating the importance of celebrating this important day and cultural with the American guests.



About RIU:

The international RIU chain was founded in Mallorca by the Riu family in 1953 as a small holiday firm and is still owned by the family's third generation. The company specializes in holiday resorts and over 70% of its establishments offer its acclaimed All Inclusive by RIU service. With the inauguration of its first



city hotel in 2010, RIU is expanding its range of products with its own line of city hotels called Riu Plaza.

RIU Hotels & Resorts now has 92 hotels in 19 countries which welcome over 4 million guests a year and

provide jobs for a total of 28,894 employees. RIU is currently the world's 34th ranked chain, one of the Caribbean's most popular, the third largest in Spain in terms of revenue and the fourth largest in number of rooms. □



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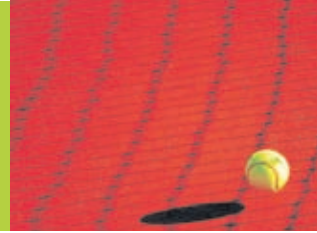


destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the member of Costa Linda at the ceremony and handed out some presents to the honor.

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SPORTS



Kelly Kraft acknowledges the crowd after making a birdie during the second round of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier golf tournament Thursday, July 6, 2018, in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

Associated Press

Kelly Kraft leads Lahiri, Simpson by 1 in West Virginia

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP) — Kelly Kraft is about to find out whether he's ready to handle the lead entering the weekend for the first time on the PGA Tour.

Kraft shot a 7-under 63 in the second round of A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier on Friday to take a one-stroke edge over first-round leader Webb Simpson and Anirban Lahiri of India.

Kraft posted his career-best round at the Old White TPC. He was at 13-under 127.

Kraft is looking to turn around a season that has included missed cuts in seven of his 10 previous tournaments, including last week at the Quicken Loans National. But he has had some success in West Virginia, where he tied for fifth last year.

"I've kind of changed my attitude a little bit starting with last week," Kraft said. "I just feel like I'm ready to keep playing good."

Continued on Page 22



Belgium holds off Brazil in World Cup quarters

Brazil's Neymar, front, reacts as Belgium's Axel Witsel celebrates after Brazil is knocked out by Belgium following their quarterfinal match at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia, Friday, July 6, 2018.

Associated Press
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Hey, Serena, you've won 7 Wimbledon titles; could 8 be next?

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

LONDON (AP) — It's hard to blame Serena Williams for having some trouble keeping track of all of her many titles at the All England Club.

"I don't necessarily have to win another Wimbledon in my career," she was saying Friday, making a point about not having anything left to prove, "(because) I won — was it six times?" Um, no, Serena. It's seven. And the way things are looking at the moment, that count could rise to No. 8 in a little more than a week. Not only is she playing like, well, her most capable self, smacking 13 aces while beating Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 7-6 (2) for a third consecutive straight-set victory, but also the other proven contenders keep losing while she just keeps on keeping on. "I'm feeling pretty good," Williams said. "I haven't had any problems yet."

She is now the only woman left in the draw who has won the trophy at the All England Club, after her older sister, five-time champion Venus, lost to No. 20 Kiki Bertens 6-2, 6-7 (5), 8-6 on Friday, joining defending champion Garbine Muguruza, two-time winner Petra Kvitova and 2004 champ Maria Sharapova as Week 1 departures.

And the number of remaining top-10 seeds is down to two after No. 9 Venus and No. 10 Madison Keys — beaten 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 Friday by Evgeniya Rodina, a qualifier ranked only 120th — were sent home. Only No. 1 Simona Halep,

who plays her third-round match Saturday, and No. 7 Karolina Pliskova, a 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1 winner against No. 29 Mihaela Buzarnescu — are still around from the top 10.

The men have had some upsets, too, but far fewer, and eight-time champion Roger Federer continued his easy progress through the draw by running his Wimbledon streak to 29 consecutive sets. No. 8 Kevin Anderson and No. 9 John Isner — the highest-ranked American man, he'd never before reached the fourth round at the grass-court major — won in straight sets, while No. 11 Sam Querrey of the U.S. was eliminated 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 by Gael Monfils of France. Isner next plays No. 31 Stefanos Tsitsipas, the first Greek man into the round of 16 at a Grand Slam tournament in the 50-year professional era.

Serena was seeded 25th by the All England Club, a bump from her current ranking of 181st, a spot owing to her time away from the game. This is only the fourth tournament of her return after giving birth last September.

It all adds up to an easier path for Serena, who couldn't possibly face a seeded player earlier than the semifinals.

Next up for her on Monday is Rodina in a matchup between two mothers.

"Serena," Rodina said, "is my idol."

Plenty of players look up to her. Plenty are in awe when they stand on the other side of a net from her.



Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball to France's Kristina Mladenovic during their women's singles match, on the fifth day of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Friday July 6, 2018.

Associated Press

Plenty do whatever they can to try to beat her, knowing it'll usually take something special to do that.

"I mean, it just gives even more props to her, honestly," said Keys, the U.S. Open runner-up last year and a French Open semifinalist last month. "It's definitely been a challenge that I have had to deal with, where all of a sudden, I'm the one that's supposed to win and people are playing with nothing to lose and playing their best tennis. A lot of times you just have to weather the storm and play better on those big points, and, I mean, the fact she's basically done that her whole career is really impressive."

To the tune of 23 Grand Slam singles championships. (Psst, Serena. That's

23, in all.)

Serena herself is well aware that she tends to get opponents' best.

"Every single match I play — whether I'm coming back from a baby or surgery, it doesn't matter — these young ladies, they bring a game that I've never seen before," she said. "It's interesting, because I don't even scout as much, because when I watch them play, it's a totally different game than when they play me. That's what makes me great: I always play everyone at their greatest, so I have to be greater."

Venus, at 38 the oldest woman in the tournament, often has dealt with that same phenomenon.

During this edition of Wimbledon, she dropped the opening set in the first round, then came back to

win. Followed that exact same pattern in the second round, too. But in the third, she couldn't quite pull off that same trick. Came close, though, even erasing a pair of match points in the final game.

Bertens acknowledged that she thought back to her previous meeting against Venus, at the Miami Open in March. That time, Bertens wasted three match points and lost.

"Of course, that was going (though) my mind sometimes," Bertens said. "But I was (thinking), 'OK, just keep going for it.'"

On Bertens' third chance to close it out Friday, Venus put a backhand into the net.

"Just ran out of time in the end," said Venus, last year's runner-up. "It was just toe-to-toe there." □

Belgium eliminates Brazil from World Cup to reach semifinals

By ROB HARRIS

KAZAN, Russia (AP) — Belgium reached the World Cup semifinals for the first time in 32 years by holding off five-time champion Brazil 2-1 Friday, sending Neymar home without living up to the expectations of being soccer's most expensive player.

Belgium scored the decisive goal on a counterat-

Tibaut Courtois.

For the third time in a World Cup — after 1982 and 2006 — the semifinals will feature only European teams. Belgium and France will meet in St. Petersburg on Tuesday. The next day in Moscow, it will be either England or Sweden against either Russia or Croatia. The other two quarterfinal matches will be played

first trophy.

"Now we need more energy for the next game," Martinez said, "so let's make sure that we're all together and we're all driving each other to be as good as we can ... in the semifinal."

With eight shutouts in the last nine games, including three in the four games in Russia, Brazil had the tightest defense of the remain-



Brazil's Renat Augusto, center, scores his side's first goal during the quarterfinal match between Brazil and Belgium at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia, Friday, July 6, 2018.

Associated Press



Brazil goalkeeper Alisson sits on the pitch after Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne, left, scored his side's second goal during the quarterfinal match between Brazil and Belgium at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia, Friday, July 6, 2018.

Associated Press

tack just after a corner had been taken by Neymar. Romelu Lukaku surged forward with the ball and Kevin De Bruyne put it in the net to give Belgium a 2-0 lead in the 31st minute.

"This was the biggest test for us," De Bruyne said. "Brazil was so strong in attack."

The opener came after a bit of good fortune. Fernandinho's trailing arm inadvertently helped Belgium captain Vincent Kompany's header land in his own net in the 13th minute. As Belgium lost cohesiveness in the second half and Brazil's changes stirred the team, substitute Renato Augusto reduced the deficit in the 76th with a header.

But it was too late for Brazil to muster an equalizer as efforts to force the game into extra time were thwarted by Belgium goalkeeper

Sunday.

Humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semifinals four years ago on home soil, Brazil didn't even get that far this time. Just like defending champion Germany and Argentina before them, the Kazan Arena is where Brazil's World Cup challenge ended.

"This is beating Brazil in the World Cup, in the knockout," Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said. "Just treasure it and pass it down in the generations."

Belgium is now on a 24-match unbeaten streak. There is guaranteed to be a fourth straight European team winning the World Cup on July 15 in Moscow. Belgium, which finished fourth at the 1986 tournament and has never won the European Championship, will hope its golden generation can deliver its

ing teams at the World Cup. But it was breached after 13 minutes in Tatarstan. Fernandinho's own-goal ensured for the first time since March 2017 that Brazil was trailing in a competitive match. Unlike then — an eventual 4-1 victory over Uruguay — there was no comeback.

Not when Courtois was proving to be an impenetrable barrier in the Belgium goal, denying Marcelo's strike before the lead was extended.

Criticized for his playacting, Neymar then went down lightly under minimal contact from Marouane Fellaini at the start of the second half. But as the referee started to seek a video review, Neymar appeared to urge him against it. A booking — if he got one for diving — would have ruled him out the semifinals. □

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France reaches World Cup semifinals, beats Uruguay 2-00

By STEPHEN WADE

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia (AP) — A shot that flew directly at the hands of the opposing goalkeeper turned into a World Cup goal for Antoine Griezmann.

The France striker scored the second goal in his team's 2-0 quarterfinal victory over Uruguay on Friday, sending a seemingly easy-to-save shot at a waiting Fernando Muslera. But the ball hit the keeper on the palms, bounced off and looped over his head and into the net.

The victory gave France a spot in the World Cup semifinals. The 1998 champions will next face Belgium on Tuesday in St. Petersburg. Griezmann didn't celebrate what was his third goal of the tournament.

"I was playing against a lot of friends," said Griezmann, who is teammates with Uruguay defenders Diego Godin and Jose Gimenez at Atletico Madrid, "so I think it was normal not to celebrate."

Raphael Varane gave France the lead with a header in the 40th minute. Griezmann sent in a free kick from the right side and Varane raced across the area. He got his head to the ball and sent it into the far corner behind Muslera. Griezmann scored his goal,



France's Antoine Griezmann scores his side's second goal during the quarterfinal match between Uruguay and France at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium, in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, Friday, July 6, 2018.

Associated Press

which was similar to the one scored by Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale against Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius in the Champions League final, in the 61st minute.

"We all saw that it was not a very common goal, but Muslera has been a very important pillar for all this process and through all our work on our way up to here, so I'm not going to wash my hands putting any responsibility on my players," Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez said. "This is the kind of thing

that I will discuss with the players in the locker room." Griezmann is a Frenchman who plays professionally in Spain, but he has a special fondness for Uruguay. He likes the traditional South American drink mate, he speaks Spanish like someone from the South American country and he's been pictured wearing the team's jersey.

Godin, who was playing for Uruguay on Friday, is also the godfather of Griezmann's daughter.

"I love Uruguayan culture

and I love Uruguayans, so I have a lot of respect for them," Griezmann said.

France went on to reach the World Cup final the last two times it advanced to the semifinals. They won their only World Cup in 1998 on home soil, and in 2006 lost to Italy on penalties.

The match at Nizhny Novgorod Stadium pitted France's speed against Uruguay's stubborn defense and its occasional attacking threats. But with Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani injured and on the bench

and Luis Suarez neutralized, it was France that scored the goals.

Suarez, who scored two goals in the group stage, didn't get a single touch on the ball in France's penalty area for the entire match. Cavani scored both goals in the 2-0 win over Portugal in the round of 16, but he sat on the bench with an injured left calf he picked up in that match.

Four minutes after Varane gave France the lead, Uruguay nearly equalized. France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris dived to his right and got a hand on a header from Martin Caceres, pushing it just wide of the goal.

"Lloris had a great save," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "Apart from that, they didn't have many great opportunities."

MBAPPE'S CHANCES

Although he didn't score, 19-year-old France forward Kylian Mbappe again looked dangerous on the attack, trying to slice in from the right wing or directing quick passes into Uruguay's defense.

Mbappe, who has modeled his game after Cristiano Ronaldo and is being compared to Zinedine Zidane, also picked up a second-half yellow card for falling to the ground as if in agony after a touch from an opponent. □

WORLD CUP KICKOFF: England's 'easy' path runs through Sweden



In this Wednesday, June 27, 2018 file photo Sweden's Andreas Granqvist, rear, and Mexico's Javier Hernandez, front, challenge for the ball during the group F match between Mexico and Sweden, at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Yekaterinburg Arena in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — What to watch for in Saturday's matchups in the World Cup quarterfinals:

WHO'S WEAK?

England coach Gareth Southgate basically picked his team's path toward the semifinals by sending out a squad of reserves that lost to Belgium in their last match of the group round, when both sides had already qualified for the knockout stage. His reasoning: No one wants to play teams like Brazil or France until they have to. His insinuation: Teams like Sweden are weaker. Southgate may not have meant it as a slight and has since called Sweden

"bloody difficult." But when Sweden coach Janne Andersson was asked about it, he curtly suggested any doubters ask Sweden's beaten opponents how tough the Swedes are to play. If England wins Saturday's first quarterfinal in Samara, expect Southgate to be further hailed for his foresight. If Sweden wins, Southgate's strategy may get a rougher review.

RUSSIA'S RUN

The hosts came into the tournament ranked 70th in the world. Even after drawing a favorable group, expectations were minimal. Advancing to the knockout stage was

deemed success enough by some. Then goalkeeper and captain Igor Akinfeev stuck out his left foot and stopped Spain's final kick of a penalty shootout in the round of 16, and suddenly Russia had pulled off one of the bigger upsets in World Cup history. Croatia has one of the most balanced teams in the tournament, but the Russians believe their quarterfinal in Sochi is winnable. If that happens, Russia would be playing a semifinal — maybe even the final — in Moscow's main stadium, and a country where soccer usually takes a distant back seat to hockey could go bonkers. □



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Gallo, Guzman lead Rangers to win over Tigers

By The Associated Press

DETROIT — Joey Gallo and Ronald Guzman homered as Texas beat Detroit.

Yovani Gallardo (3-0) got the win, giving up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. He walked one and struck out two while winning his third straight start.

Keone Kela allowed a run in the ninth before finishing off his 21st save as Texas snapped a three-game losing streak.

Matthew Boyd allowed a season-high seven runs and seven hits in four innings. He is 0-3 with a 10.59 ERA in his last four starts.

Detroit lost its third straight and dropped to 2-14 since June 17.

TWINS 5, ORIOLES 2

MINNEAPOLIS — Aaron Slegers got his first major league win by finishing six smooth innings in his first start of the season for Minnesota, and the Twins stopped their six-game losing streak by hanging on to beat Baltimore.

Logan Morrison homered and Jake Cave reached base all four times he batted for the Twins, who

turned to Fernando Rodney for the ninth for his 18th save following two consecutive blown chances.

Jonathan Schoop hit two home runs, but the Orioles squandered another quality start by Andrew Cashner (2-9) and lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

They have the worst record in the major leagues at 24-62, just the team the Twins needed to face to start a season-long 11-game homestand after a 1-8 road trip.

ASTROS 4, WHITE SOX 3

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning and Yuli Gurriel's RBI single with one out in Houston's two-run ninth lifted the Astros to a win over Chicago.

The Astros trailed by 1 when Joakim Soria (0-3) walked pinch-hitter Tony Kemp with no outs in the ninth before advancing to third on a single by pinch-hitter Marwin Gonzalez.

George Springer snapped an 0-for-8 slump and tied it at 3-3 with his RBI single to shallow center field.

Alex Bregman walked to



Texas Rangers relief pitcher Keone Kela dodges the broken bat of Detroit Tigers' Niko Goodrum and fields the ball for the last out of a baseball game Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Detroit.

Associated Press

load the bases and Altuve struck out before Gurriel sent a ball over second baseman Yoan Moncada's head into right field to give Houston the victory.

Justin Verlander bounced back from his last start where he allowed nine hits and five runs — both season highs — in a loss to Tampa Bay with a solid outing. He yielded four hits and two runs and struck out 10 in seven innings.

Joe Smith (3-1) allowed

one hit in a scoreless ninth for the win in his first appearance since June 6.

MARINERS 4, ANGELS 1

SEATTLE (AP) — Chris Herrmann hit his first home run for Seattle and Marco Gonzales pitched six solid innings to lead the Mariners past the Los Angeles Angels.

Gonzales (9-5) gave up five hits while striking out seven in a 102-pitch outing.

The lone run he gave up was Kole Calhoun's sacri-

fice fly in the fourth inning to tie the game at 1. Edwin Diaz struck out the side in the ninth to lock up his major league-leading 34th save.

The Mariners have not lost a home series since May 6, when they dropped two of three games to the Angels. They are 6-0-3 during that span.

Angels starter Jaime Barria (5-5) allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings in the loss. □

Sei Young Kim takes four-shot lead at LPGA Classic

By BILL HUBER

Associated Press

ONEIDA, Wis. (AP) — Sei Young Kim birdied her first four holes Friday to shoot a 7-under 65 and surge to the lead after the second round of the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic. Kim was at 16-under 128 — tied for the tour's lowest of the season — and four shots ahead of Yu Liu. Kim could have had a much bigger lead but missed makeable birdie putts on her 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th holes. "The first hole, my second shot was a tap-in birdie," Kim said. "After that, every hole I got it close to the pin.

I had a lot of birdie opportunities. It was perfect weather so, every hole, I could attack the pin." Liu made the big move of the day with a 9-under 63 to grab sole possession of second place. It was the lowest score of her career. She jump-started her round with an eagle on the par-5 third, with her 3-wood from about 245 yards stopping 15 feet from the flag, then birdied four of the next six holes.

"I wasn't hitting it too spectacular but I was rolling a lot of putts in," said Liu, who needed only 24 putts. "I knew there were birdie opportunities out there." Defending champion

Katherine Kirk, who had a one-shot lead after a 10-under 62 in the first round, couldn't get her putting going, though, and settled for 71. She is one of five players who are five shots off the pace at 133.

While Kirk hit 16 of 18 greens in regulation, she managed only two birdies and needed 33 putts. "Front nine, I just couldn't get one to drop, and back nine, hit lots of good putts and, again, nothing happened," Kirk said. "Overall, I'm happy with how today went. I was very patient. I hit a lot of greens. That's all you can do." □

Turner homers twice, Nationals rally past Marlins

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trea Turner hit two homers, including his first career grand slam, and drove in eight runs to help the Washington Nationals rally from a nine-run deficit and defeat the Miami Marlins 14-12 in a wild slugfest Thursday night to end a five-game losing streak.

The Nationals, who dropped 17 of their previous 22, have won 12 consecutive games against Miami dating to last season — their longest winning streak against any team since the franchise moved to Washington in 2005.

The victory came a day after the Nationals called a players-only meeting Wednesday after Washington was swept by Boston and slipped under .500 for the first time since May 2. Turner's eight RBIs tied for the most ever by a leadoff hitter, according to STATS LLC.

Shawn Kelley (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth for the win. Sean Doolittle earned his 22nd save in 23 opportunities.

Adam Conley (2-1) allowed five runs in 2/3 of an inning and took the loss.

BREWERS 7, BRAVES 2

MILWAUKEE — Jhoulys



Washington Nationals' Trea Turner hits a two-run single during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Washington. The Nationals won 14-12.

Associated Press

Chacin threw seven solid innings and Hernan Perez homered among his three hits, leading Milwaukee to a 7-2 victory over Atlanta in a matchup of first-place teams.

The NL Central Division-leading Brewers won their fourth game in a row to go 17 games over .500 (52-35) for the first time since July 1, 2014, when they were 51-34.

Chacin (7-3) gave up three hits and two earned runs

while matching a season high with seven strikeouts in what tied for his longest outing this year. The right-hander was 0-2 in his previous three starts while allowing 10 runs in 15 2/3 innings. Dan Jennings pitched two perfect innings for his first save this season, and second of his career.

NL East-leading Atlanta dropped its third consecutive game after winning four straight. Braves left-hander Max Fried (1-3)

lasted only three innings in his third start of the season, giving up four earned runs and four hits with three walks.

CARDINALS 11, GIANTS 2
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Luke Weaver pitched two-hit ball over eight innings and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Giants.

Jedd Gyorko had three hits, including a homer, and drove in five runs to spoil the return of Johnny Cueto after two months on the

disabled list. Matt Carpenter and Harrison Bader also went deep, while Yadier Molina singled three times. The Cardinals had a season-high 18 hits — their most since getting 19 against the New York Mets on Aug. 24, 2016.

Alen Hanson homered for San Francisco, which has scored five runs while losing four straight.

Weaver (5-7) faced two over the minimum and had seven strikeouts. He carried a perfect game into the sixth before giving up a single and Hanson's two-run homer. Weaver then bounced back to retire the final seven batters he faced.

Cueto (3-1) was rocked in his long-awaited return from the 60-day disabled list. He gave up four runs in the first inning — one more than he had in 32 innings before going out with right elbow inflammation.

PADRES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

PHOENIX (AP) — Eric Lauer limited Arizona to a run over five innings, Austin Hedges homered for the first time since April 10 and the San Diego Padres opened a four-game series in the desert with a victory over the slumping Diamondbacks. □



Anirban Lahiri, of India, lines up his putt on the ninth green during the second round of the A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier in West Virginia golf tournament in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Friday, July 6, 2018.

Associated Press

WEST VIRGINIA

Continued from Page 17

Kraft made four birdies on the front nine and didn't let a bogey on the par-5 12th hole derail him. He added birdies on the next two holes and took the lead

with a six-foot birdie putt on the par-4 16th.

Reminded that it's his first time leading a PGA Tour event after 36 holes, Kraft said he was confident.

"I've been up there before and I know I can play out

here," he said. "I'm just looking for two more low ones and a bunch of scoring opportunities."

Lahiri shot a career-low 61 and Simpson had a 67. Both were at 12 under.

Lahiri has yet to make a bogey in his first trip to The Greenbrier resort. He found just eight of 14 fairways but reached all 18 greens in regulation Friday. Four of his nine birdies were putts of 18 feet or longer.

"I've been feeling good over the last two weeks," Lahiri said. "I've seen the improvement on the golf course and I've tried to plug the gaps that I've found over the last two weeks. And I'm happy that more than anything else I haven't dropped a shot. But I'm not thinking about that. The focus is just to put myself in the best position that I can,

and that's a big positive for me." After shooting 61 on Thursday, Simpson saw his chance for a very low score end quickly on Friday.

Starting on the back nine, Simpson hit a tee shot that went out of bounds and made double-bogey on the par-5 12th, a hole he had eagled the day before. He then bogeyed the par-4 13th after his tee shot found the rough. He made five birdies the rest of his round.

"It was not the start I was looking for," Simpson said. "I hung in there. I weathered that storm and made some birdies there on the front nine to keep it under par and give myself a chance for the weekend."

Jason Kokrak shot 64 and was in fourth place at 11 under. Whee Kim of South Korea and Harold Varner III

were at 10 under. Kim shot 68 and Varner shot 64.

Simpson is the only one among the top six players on the leaderboard with a PGA Tour win. Since its 2010 debut, the tournament has produced four first-time winners, including three rookies.

DIVOTS: Tournament executive director Habibi Mamone said Friday the event will move to the fall. No specific dates were given, but Mamone said she expects it will be in late September or early October 2019, meaning it could be left off the PGA Tour's 2018-19 schedule. The tour hasn't released the schedule for the coming season. ... Bubba Watson, the highest ranked player in the field, shot 66 and was at 6 under. Phil Mickelson posted a 69 and was at 5 under. □

Movistar launches 3-man attack to end Froome's Tour reign

By JOSEPH WILSON

CHOLET, France (AP) — Movistar is launching a three-man attack to foil Chris Froome's quest to win a fifth Tour de France.

While most teams appoint one leader to fight for the title, Movistar says Nairo Quintana, Alejandro Valverde, and Mikel Landa all start the race on Saturday with equal options to become their No. 1 rider.

"We always come here with high hopes, but this year it definitely looks like it is our turn more than ever to aspire for victory with these three leaders," Movistar general director Eusebio Unzué said on Friday in western France.

"It's undeniable that this team has gotten better and that we are coming here in perfect position to achieve the goal of arriving to Paris in the yellow jersey." However, some rivals ques-

tion whether not having a defined leader and seven more riders tasked to help him through the grueling 21-stage race will only create confusion and in-house competition for Movistar.

Richie Porte, who helped Froome win two Tour titles then left Sky to have his shot at being a top rider on BMC, said finding a balance with three riders who are fighting for the overall classification would be difficult. "It is a tricky one, having a three-prong attack," Porte said. "It is great to have those options, but you have to use them wisely. Who knows how harmonious it is on that team? It is hard enough with two leaders, let alone three."

Porte won last month's Tour de Suisse after Movistar fell short with Quintana finishing third and Landa 16th.

Porte said he was aided in Switzerland by what he

called Movistar's poor race tactics. He gave an example of the team ordering Landa to attack into what Porte described as a headwind.

"Hopefully for Landa they are going to use (their riders) more smartly" in France, Porte said.

Quintana, a winner of the Giro d'Italia and the Spanish Vuelta who has twice finished runner-up to Froome at the Tour, said Movistar was accustomed to competing without a clear hierarchy. The Colombian climber has shared the top spot on the team for years with Valverde.

"On other occasions we have been in this situation of having more than one leader and we have known how to handle it," Quintana said. "It's not a problem. Day by day the race will decide for us."

Valverde, at 38 years old,



Colombia's Nairo Quintana greets spectators during the Tour de France cycling race team presentation in La Roche-sur-Yon, Vendée region, France, Thursday, July 5, 2018, ahead of upcoming Saturday's start of the race.

Associated Press

said he was most likely third in the pecking order behind Quintana and newcomer Landa.

"I have come here several times as the leader and my opportunity (to win) has probably passed," Valverde said. "Our idea is to win the Tour for Mo-

vistar, but they have better chances than I do."

Landa is trying to follow a similar path to Porte. The Spaniard excelled as a strong support rider for Froome and former Tour winner Vincenzo Nibali before he signed to Movistar this season. □

Rebekkah Brunson grabs record-breaking rebound in Lynx win

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rebekkah Brunson grabbed 12 boards while becoming the leading rebounder in WNBA history, helping the Minnesota Lynx beat the Los Angeles Sparks 83-72 on Thursday.

Brunson began the night in third place with 3,306 rebounds. She passed Lisa Leslie (3,307) early on and overtook Tamika Catchings (3,316) when she grabbed Candace Parker's missed 3-pointer with 7:17 left in the fourth quarter.

Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve was ejected on the following play for arguing a call, but Brunson was later recognized with a standing ovation from the crowd and a hug from Lynx owner Glen Taylor when the achievement was announced during the ensuing media timeout.

Brunson also had 15 points in her 82nd career double-double, putting her ahead of Yolanda Griffith for sixth on the WNBA career list.

Sylvia Fowles added 27 points, nine rebounds and a career-high seven as-

sists for the Lynx (11-7), who bounced back from their first loss in eight games.

Candace Parker led the Sparks (12-7) with 22 points.

MERCURY 84, SUN 77

PHOENIX (AP) — Diana Taurasi had 25 points, Brittney Griner scored 23 and Phoenix took over sole possession of first place in the WNBA.

DeWanna Bonner made a pair of key baskets down the stretch that helped the Mercury (14-5) hold off the Sun. She finished with 12 points and a season-high 13 rebounds.

The Sun (10-8) never led. They trailed by as many as 15 in the third quarter before going on a 17-3 run to cut the deficit to 73-72.

Chiney Ogumike, Rachel Banham and Jasmine Thomas had 11 points each for Connecticut.

MYSTICS 86, LIBERTY 67

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elena Delle Donne scored 11 of her 21 points in the fourth quarter to help Washington pull away for the win.

Natasha Cloud had 10 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds in the first dou-



Minnesota Lynx forward Rebekkah Brunson (32) celebrates with the team following an 83-72 win over the Los Angeles Sparks in a WNBA basketball game Thursday, July 5, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

ble-double of her career. LaToya Sanders added 14 points for the Mystics (11-6). Washington used a 15-5 run to open a 71-59 lead early in the fourth quarter. The Liberty (5-13) got the deficit within single digits twice and then the Mystics closed the game on an 8-0 run.

Tina Charles had 26 points and 12 rebounds for New York. Epiphanny Prince added 11 points.

WINGS 90, FEVER 63

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Azura Stevens scored a career-high 26 points, and Dallas never trailed.

The Wings (9-8) opened the game with an 8-0 run and pulled away with a 19-4 run that ended at 33-16 early in the second quarter. The Fever (2-17) got as close as 47-36 early in the third quarter, but Dallas extended the lead to 65-41 and closed the game on a 7-0

run to take its largest lead at the final score.

Liz Cambage added 17 points and nine rebounds and Aerial Powers scored 11 for the Wings.

Candice Dupree had 21 points and Cappie Pondexter scored 12 for the Fever. **ACES 84, SKY 80**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Kayla McBride scored 28 points and Las Vegas pulled ahead of Chicago in the WNBA standings.

McBride's driving layup with 2:14 left made it 80-77, and the Aces (7-12) made 4 of 6 free throws down the stretch. A'ja Wilson was fouled on a putback and made 1 of 2 free throws to make it a two-possession game with 31.2 seconds left. Las Vegas led for most of the second half and took the lead for good late in the third quarter at 69-67 on Wilson's jumper. Wilson finished with 24 points.

The Sky (6-12) went scoreless for the final 3:52 of the game. Allie Quigley had 13 points, Diamond DeShields scored 11 and Cheyenne Parker finished with 10 for Chicago. □

Should police use computers to predict crimes and criminals?

By DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

Years of secrecy by America's police departments about their use of computer programs predicting where crimes will occur, and who will commit them, are under fire in legal cases nationwide.

The largest departments — New York, Chicago and Los Angeles — are all being sued for not releasing information about their "predictive policing" programs, which use algorithms to crunch data and create lists of people and neighborhoods for officers to target. Some smaller departments also have been brought to court and before public records agencies.

A top concern, advocates say, is that the computer programs perpetuate the problem of minorities being arrested at higher rates than whites. If arrest and crime location data that show such biases are fed into the algorithms, they argue, police will continue targeting minorities and minority neighborhoods at higher rates.

Several groups and organizations have taken police agencies to court in an effort to find out what data is being fed into the programs, how the algorithms work and exactly what the end results are, including which people and areas are on the lists and how police are using the data.

"Everybody is trying to find out how it works, if it's fair," said Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst for the American Civil Liberties Union. "This is all pretty new. This is all experimental. And there are reasons to think this is discriminatory in many ways."

The programs are developed by private companies such as Palantir and PrePol and can tell police where and when crimes are likely to occur by analyzing years of crime location data. Other, more criticized programs produce lists of likely criminals and victims based on people's criminal history, age, gang



In this June 29, 2012 file photo, Jeff Brantingham, anthropology professor at the University of California Los Angeles, displays a computer generated view of "predictive policing," zones at the Los Angeles Police Department Unified Command Post (UCP) in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

affiliation and other factors. Some cities are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, even millions, on predictive policing programs, with many of the costs paid for by state and federal law enforcement grants.

Several dozen U.S. police departments use some form of predictive policing, and more than a hundred others are considering or planning to start such programs, according to counts and estimates by different groups.

Police officials say they can't release some information about their predictive programs because of citizen privacy and safety concerns and because some data is proprietary. The programs are helping to reduce crime and better deploy officers in a time of declining budgets and staffing, they argue.

Some studies have arrived at conflicting conclusions about whether predictive policing is effective or biased, but there has not been definitive research yet, experts say.

Critics say they've already seen what they believe is evidence of biases in predictive policing, including increased arrests in neighborhoods heavily populated by blacks and Latinos and people on computer-generated lists being repeatedly harassed by police.

Mariella Saba believes predictive policing labeled her Los Angeles neighborhood, Rose Hill, as a crime hot spot, because she has seen heavy law enforcement activity. Friends and neighbors, many of them Latino, have been stopped by police multiple times, she said. One friend, Pedro Echeverria, was shot three times by a police officer last year but survived. Prosecutors ruled the shooting justified, saying Echeverria had a gun and fought with officers. Police said they decided to stop him as he was walking on a street because he was in Rose Hill, a "known hang-out" for gang members, according to a prosecutor's report.

"It's traumatic. It creates trauma," Saba, 30, of the

increased police activity. "I know better to never normalize this or see this as normal. I'm about to burst."

Saba said she can't be certain whether Rose Hill is the subject of predictive policing because police won't release that information. A group she co-founded, the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, sued the police department in February seeking data about its program. The LAPD has released some data to the group but hasn't hand over other information, including copies of "chronic offender bulletins" that list people of interest to police. The lawsuit remains pending.

The LAPD can't release some information because of concerns about citizens' privacy, and other data sought by Saba's group doesn't exist, said Josh Rubinstein, a police spokesman.

"We're not trying to dodge anything," he said. "They're making assumptions about what we're doing that aren't true."

The LAPD uses a data mining program developed

by Palantir Technologies, which was co-founded by tech financier and PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel with backing from an investment arm of the CIA. The company has helped the military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Challenges in some other cities:

— In Hartford, police are facing a complaint by the Connecticut ACLU to the state public records commission for not releasing information about analytical software for the city's surveillance camera system that officials say will help predict crime and capture suspects.

— Journalists sued Chicago last year in an effort to get information on what data goes into its so-called "heat list," which ranks certain people on how likely they are to become perpetrators or victims of crime. The case remains pending.

"People are rightfully skeptical of the government using computers to predict who's going to commit a crime," said Matthew Topic, a lawyer for the journalists. "Maybe this heat list is a legitimate tool. Maybe it could be used better. The whole point of having transparency laws is we, as the public, get to second-guess everything government does."

— A judge in December ordered New York City police to release records about its predictive policing tools after officials declined to disclose documents requested by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. The center is seeking information about the department's use of Palantir's products and other records.

— Information about New Orleans' predictive policing program is being sought in court by Kentrell Hickerson, who is appealing his convictions on gang-related charges. A judge said in April that Hickerson can subpoena city officials for information on whether data from the program were used in his case. The case remains pending. □

US adds a solid 213,000 jobs; unemployment up to 4 pct.

By JOSH BOAK,

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers kept up a brisk hiring pace in June by adding 213,000 jobs, a sign of confidence in the economy despite the start of a potentially punishing trade war with China.

The job growth wasn't enough to keep the unemployment rate from rising from 3.8 percent to 4 percent, the government said Friday. But the rate rose for an encouraging reason: More people felt it was a good time to begin looking for a job, though not all of them immediately found one.

The growing optimism that people can find work suggested that the 9-year old U.S. economic expansion — the second-longest on record — has the momentum to keep chugging along. Yet its path ahead is uncertain. Just hours before the monthly jobs report was released, the Trump administration imposed taxes on \$34 billion in Chinese imports, and Beijing hit back with tariffs on the same amount of U.S. goods.

"The tariffs jumble things about what we should expect to see in the next few months," said Cathy Barrera, chief economist at ZipRecruiter, the online jobs marketplace.

Some companies will likely respond to the tariffs by putting their hiring plans on hold until the trade picture becomes clearer.

Major U.S. stock indexes were mostly higher Friday after the jobs report was issued, keeping the market on track for a weekly gain after two weeks of losses.

The June jobs data showed an economy that may be on the cusp of producing stronger pay growth, something that could be disrupted if additional tariffs are imposed. Trump has suggested that more than \$500 billion worth of Chinese imports could be taxed in his drive to force Beijing to reform its trade policies, which he insists have unfairly victimized the United States.

Average hourly pay rose just 2.7 percent in June



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 photo, a job applicant looks at job listings for the Riverside Hotel at a job fair hosted by Job News South Florida, in Sunrise, Fla.

Associated Press

from 12 months earlier. That relatively modest increase means that, after adjusting for inflation, overall wages remain nearly flat. But the average was skewed downward in June because the job seekers were mainly those with only a high school education or less, who are generally paid lower wages, Barrera noted.

The ranks of unemployed people seeking jobs jumped by 499,000 in June, which caused the unemployment rate to rise from its previous 18 year-low. With 93 straight months of job growth — a historical record — many employers have said they're feeling pressure to raise wages. But significant pay gains have yet to emerge in the economic data.

Mara Fortin, who owns seven Nothing Bundt Cake stores in the San Diego

area, said she raised pay last month to \$13 an hour from \$11.50. A widespread availability of jobs and the prospect of higher wages at other employers made it harder to retain workers, she said.

"In the past six months, people were just leaving right and left," she said. "We've seen that happen at an alarming rate."

Manufacturers added 36,000 jobs last month. The education and health sector added 54,000. But retailers shed 21,600 jobs, with the losses concentrated at general merchandise stores.

In its report Friday, the government revised up its estimate of job growth in May and April by a combined 37,000. Over the past three months, the economy has produced a robust average monthly job gain of 211,000.

The broader U.S. economy appears sturdy. Economists are forecasting that economic growth accelerated to an annual pace of roughly 4 percent during the April-June quarter, about double the previous quarter's pace.

Signs of strength have helped bolster hiring despite the difficulty many employers say they're having in finding enough qualified workers to fill jobs.

Manufacturers and services firms have said in recent surveys that their business is improving despite anxiety about the tariff showdown. Housing starts have climbed 11 percent so far this year. Retail sales jumped a strong 0.8 percent in May in a sign that consumers feel secure enough to spend.

Though economic growth appears to be solid, the gains have been spread

unevenly. President Donald Trump's tax cuts have provided a dose of stimulus this year, but the benefits have been tilted significantly toward wealthy individuals and corporations. Savings from the tax cuts enabled companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index to buy back a record number of shares in the first three months of 2018.

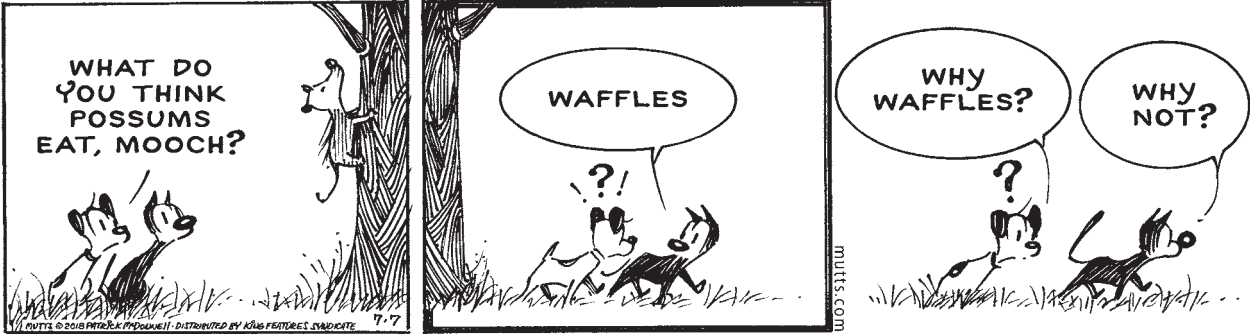
Yet the tax cuts have done little to generate substantial pay growth. Most economists say they still think the low unemployment rate will eventually force more employers to offer higher pay in order to fill jobs.

The economy also faces a substantial threat from the trade tension with China and from other trade disputes with U.S. allies, including Canada and Europe. Any escalation in the conflict with China could disrupt hiring as companies grapple with higher import prices and diminished demand for their exports. On Thursday, Trump floated the prospect of imposing tariffs on more than \$500 billion in Chinese imports.

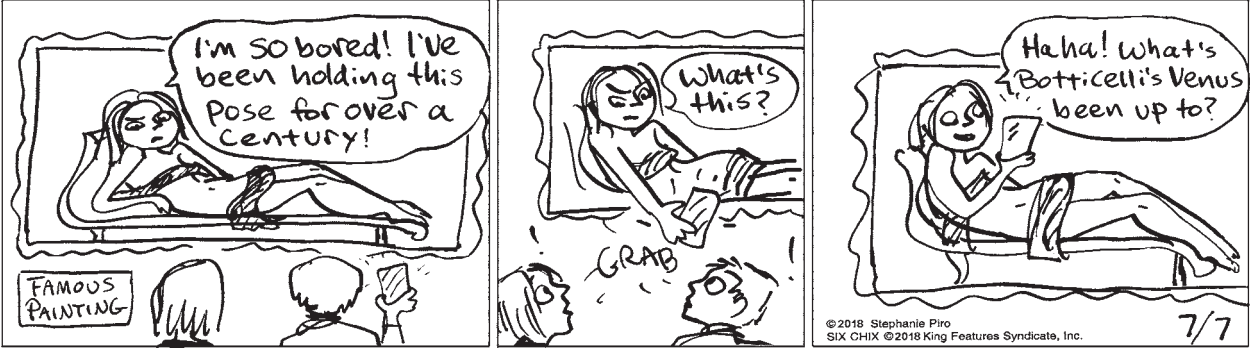
The Trump administration has also applied tariffs on steel and aluminum from allies like Canada and Mexico and has threatened to abandon the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump has spoken about slapping tariffs on imported cars, trucks and auto parts, which General Motors has warned could hurt the U.S. auto industry and drive up car prices. Automakers added 12,000 jobs in June. □



Mutts



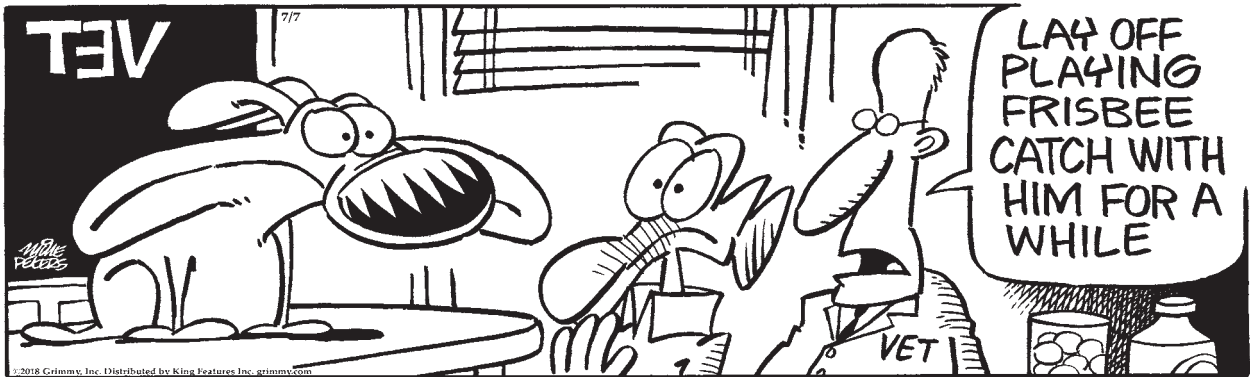
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8			3				
		1						6
		9	5			7	1	
				5		9		
2			6	9	8			7
		8		1				
	2	5			3	1		
3						4		
				7			3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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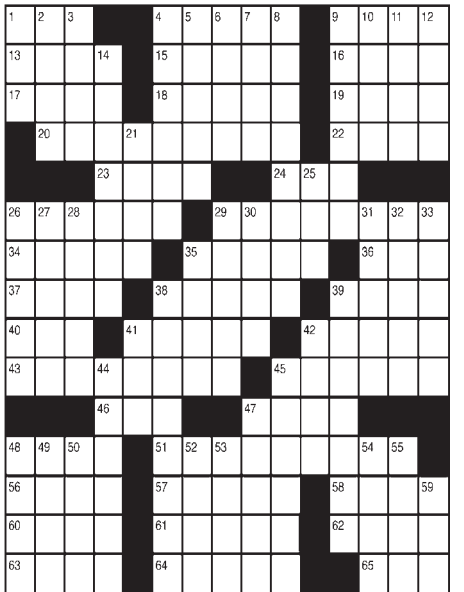
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	9	5	1	3	6	8	2	4
2	1	8	4	5	9	3	6	7
6	3	4	2	8	7	1	5	9
8	7	6	3	2	1	9	4	5
3	5	2	9	7	4	6	8	1
9	4	1	5	6	8	7	3	2
4	6	3	7	9	5	2	1	8
5	2	9	8	1	3	4	7	6
1	8	7	6	4	2	5	9	3

ACROSS

- 1 Dove's sound
4 Zeal
9 Ravel
13 ___ up to; admits
15 "___ It to Beaver"
16 Easy stride
17 Georgia ___;
univ. in Atlanta
18 Microsoft's Bill
19 ___-minded;
willing to reconsider
20 Item in a toiletry bag
22 Gives up the single life
23 Cordial
24 Biggest diamond
26 Show up
29 Clouding of the eye
34 One-syllable U.S. state
35 Summoned with a beeper
36 Mr. Iacocca
37 Crooner Crosby
38 Shows courage
39 Nylons
40 19th letter
41 Cooked in oil
42 Songwriter George M. ___
43 Goes in again
45 Grinders
46 McMahon & O'Neill
47 Element whose symbol is Pb
48 Daddy
51 Like a terrible headache
56 ___ about; approximately
57 Thrill
58 Orderly
60 French boy's name
61 Classic name for a dog
62 Sports event
63 Pitcher
64 "Dancing with the ___"
65 Youth
- DOWN
1 Rollaway
2 Had unpaid bills



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/7/18

Friday's Puzzle Solved

YES	RABBI	GALE
DONE	AMOUR	ADAY
URGE	VERTEBRATE	
BEA	LINES	ARMED
	GLAND	PRE
WHEEZE	ARETHA	
HOMEY	COWER	ADS
OWES	DAILY	SNAP
SIN	MILLS	LEDGE
	ETHICS	BEAMED
	ONE	BASTE
ISAAC	SHINS	DDE
CORRESPOND	DOES	
ELKS	RANGE	OWNS
DOSE	STEED	ANY

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7/7/18

- 39 ___ up; delaying
41 Floral wire service
42 Parka
44 Closer
45 Linear measures
47 Slightly more than a quart
48 Tiny skin opening
49 Once more
50 Corn bread
52 Cemetery space
53 Etna's output
54 Actress Patricia da ___
55 Explorer Vasco da ___
59 One of the Kennedys

Trump's UK trip includes palace pomp, aims to avoid protests

LONDON (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Britain will take him to a palace, a country mansion and a castle — and will mostly avoid London, where noisy protests are planned.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office said Friday that Trump will arrive July 12 after attending a NATO summit in Brussels.

That evening he will attend a black-tie dinner with business leaders at Blenheim Palace, a grand country house near Oxford that was the birthplace of Winston Churchill.

He will be greeted with military pomp, including a welcome by bands of the Irish, Scots and Welsh Guards. The Royal Regiment of Scotland — homeland of the president's mother — will pipe him out at the end of the dinner. He said the highlight will be the chance for the president and first lady to meet the queen. □

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3BEDROM \$25k
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*WK 52 OV \$48k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

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Ambulancia	
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896
Venezolana	583 7674

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Freewinds
July 11
Monarch / Freedom of the Seas
Freewinds

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Africa's pollution killing thousands of infants, study says

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Modest reductions in air pollution can prevent the deaths of tens of thousands of infants in sub-Saharan Africa each year, according to a new scientific study that investigated the link between breathable air pollutants and premature deaths in 30 countries across the continent. Although few pollution monitoring systems exist in Africa, the researchers combined satellite-based data estimating the concentration of air pollutant particles with household health survey data on the location and timing of almost 1 million infant births — and any subsequent deaths — between 2001 and 2015.

There is a "robust relationship" between breathable particulate matter and infant mortality in some of the world's poorest countries, according to researchers from Stanford University and the University of California, San Diego published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

Particulate matter, one of many air pollutants, is believed by many experts to be the most harmful to human health. The term refers to small particles suspended in the air, including dust and black carbon originating from such sources as fossil fuel and biomass burning. Air pollution contributes to the global burden of heart disease, lung cancer, as well



In this Tuesday, June 5, 2018 file photo, environmental protesters demonstrate against recent government plans to mine coal and open a coal-fired power plant, in downtown Nairobi, Kenya. Associated Press

as respiratory diseases such as asthma and pneumonia, according to the World Health Organization. Many people in Africa, where the process of rural electrification has been slow, still burn wood to cook or heat their homes. Other sources of pollutants may be natural, including large amounts of dust from the Sahara Desert. Every 10-microgram-per-cubic-meter increase in the concentration of breathable particulate matter is associated with an increase of about 9 percent in infant mortality, an effect consistent over the 15-year study period, the study's authors say. They also estimate that a decrease in air pollution of 5 micrograms per cubic meter across

Africa might have averted around 40,000 infant deaths in 2015.

"The principal sources of particulate matter differ across sub-Saharan Africa. As such, policies and approaches to reducing pollution may be most appropriately undertaken at the local and regional scale," Sam Heft-Neal, one of the study's authors, told *The Associated Press*. "In booming urban areas, many of the relevant technologies and policies are the same ones that have been applied in more developed economies: moving away from coal to cleaner feedstocks for electric power production, putting particulate filters on buses and trucks, and reducing traffic congestion."

Addressing biomass burning both in the farming fields and for cooking may require more comprehensive policies to rapidly move households up the energy ladder, he said, citing solar energy as "an excellent way to remove kerosene emissions" from homes.

The study also found that wealthier households were not immune from the negative effects of air pollution. Although many African governments recognize the threat to lives from air pollutants, efforts to stem pollution have often lagged behind the more practical concerns of growing economies and attracting investors to develop local industry.

Some countries are starting

to act. In the East African nation of Uganda, where cars emitting black exhaust fumes are a common sight on the roads, a draft law proposes to ban imports of vehicles older than eight years. The bill, already approved by Uganda's cabinet, aims to curb imports of used Japanese cars that are seen as a major source of pollution in the urban areas.

According to the World Health Organization, 97 percent of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants in developing countries don't meet WHO air quality guidelines. That number decreases to 49 percent in high-income countries.

A 2015 study published in *Nature* found that air pollution, mostly by breathable particulate matter, leads to 3.3 million premature deaths a year worldwide, predominantly in Asia. That study projected that by 2050 the death total would double, to about 6.6 million a year, if trends didn't change.

"The realities of our society are so difficult," said Denis Akankunda Bwesigye, a fellow at Uganda's Makerere University School of Public Health, citing the widespread use in rural areas of burning wood in the process of cooking.

Air pollution, he said, contributes significantly to the cases of pneumonia, which kills more than 24,000 Ugandan children under the age of 5 each year, according to government figures. □

Study provides clues to fate of early North American dogs

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study provides fresh evidence that the first dogs of North America all but disappeared after the arrival

of Europeans. The only surviving legacy appears to be a cancer that arose from the cells of a dog that lived more than

8,000 years ago and has since spread to other canines throughout the world, an international team reported Thursday in the journal

Science. Researchers compared the genomes of ancient and modern American dogs. Results confirm that the

first domesticated dogs of North America arrived with people from Asia over the same Bering land bridge used much earlier by humans. These dogs thrived for thousands of years, but mostly vanished after contact with Europeans. Scientists don't know why they disappeared. "I just find it really surprising," says geneticist Elinor Karlsson from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, who did not participate in the study. □

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Sister-in-law says producing Houston doc hit close to home

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Whitney Houston's mother had no clue about allegations that her son and superstar daughter were molested as children until the making of the new documentary "Whitney," says the film's executive producer.

Patricia Houston, the sister-in-law of Whitney, is responsible for getting the film, out Friday, to screen. Directed by Kevin Macdonald, "Whitney" paints an intimate portrait of the Grammy-winning pop queen and movie star through interviews with her brothers, her mother, friends, and behind-the-scenes footage. Houston's regal image over the decades was eroded by erratic behavior due to her drug use; she died in 2012, on the eve of the Grammys, after being discovered unresponsive in a hotel bathtub. She was 48.



In this Feb. 13, 2011, singer Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

It's the second documentary on Houston: "Whitney: Can I Be Me" was released earlier this year.

Patricia Houston, wife of Gary Garland-Houston, said it was difficult making "Whitney" because it hit so

close to home — and because she was the one who had to tell Cissy Houston not only that there were

abuse allegations, but they would be in the film.

"It was deeply a revelation for her. You think about her, and it being a bit overbearing for her to hear — and her kids not telling her. That's pretty tough to have to deal with," said Houston. Dee Dee Warwick, the niece of Cissy Houston and sister to Dionne Warwick, was the alleged abuser. The alleged incidents took place when Gary and Whitney were between the ages of 7 and 9 and Cissy was touring. Warwick, who was 18 years older than Whitney Houston, died in 2008.

The documentary suggests that the sexual abuse endured by the children was a significant contributor to their struggles with drugs as adults.

"I don't think you can explain anyone's life from one particular event that's happened to them. □

Elvis Costello cancels tour dates after cancer surgery

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Elvis Costello has canceled the rest of his European summer tour after undergoing surgery for a "small but very aggressive" cancerous tumor.

The post-punk singer-songwriter says he needs time to recover after the operation.

The 63-year-old musician said in a statement Friday that he initially thought "normal service had been resumed" but now realized he needed more rest. He said "therefore, I must reluctantly cancel all the remaining engagements of this tour."

He vowed to "return at the soonest opportunity."

The canceled concerts were in Britain, Croatia, Austria, Norway and Sweden.

Costello, whose hits include "Alison" and "Oliver's Army," urged men to go to their doctors if they had symptoms they were worried about. □



In this Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 file photo, musician Elvis Costello attends a screening of "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool" at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

'Maze Runner' author Dashner says he's working on new book

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Maze Runner" author James Dashner says he's working on a new book.

Dashner tweeted late Thursday that he was working on new material and wasn't using notes as a guide for his new project, which would be the first since he was dropped by publisher Three Penguin Random House imprints over sexual misconduct allegations in February.

"I'm writing a book from scratch, with no input or guidance from agents or editors or publishers. First



In this July 11, 2015 file photo, James Dashner, author of "Maze Runner" attends the 20th Century Fox press line at Comic-Con International in San Diego.

Associated Press

time in 15 years I've done this. It's spectacularly fun and invigorating. I hope something special comes out of this..." Dashner tweeted.

He is one of the country's most popular young adult novel writers, responsible for "The Mortality Doctrine" and "The 13th Reality" books.

His "Maze Runner" series was turned into a motion-picture franchise starring Dylan O'Brien.

In February, Dashner tweeted an extended apology for his behavior after he and "Thirteen Reasons Why"

author Jay Asher were cited repeatedly in a recent comments thread on sexual misconduct on the website of the School Library Journal.

"I've taken the past few days for introspection, to see if I've been part of the problem," he wrote in February. "I didn't honor or fully understand boundaries and power dynamics. I can sincerely say that I have never intentionally hurt another person. But to those affected, I am deeply sorry."

He vowed to seek counseling. □

The B-52s are touring on their 40th anniversary - sort of

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The B-52s are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. But they also may celebrate it next year. That is, if they haven't already hit the milestone.

There's no fuzzy math here — it's a just matter of which date adequately represents the origin of the band, which began in Athens, Georgia.

Vocalist Fred Schneider considers 2018 as their ruby anniversary. "This is 40 years since our first single came out," Schneider said. That was the year they released the song, "Rock Lobster."

The band's other vocalist, Kate Pierson, interprets their anniversary a bit more liberally.

"We started in 1976 jamming and we played our first show on Valentine's Day 1977, so we can mark 40 from there or we can mark 40 from 1979 when we did our first record," Pierson said, referring to their eponymous album.

Then she added: "It's flexible. We're milking the 40



In this June 21, 2018 photo, Kate Pierson, left, and Fred Schneider, of The B-52s, pose for a portrait in New York to promote their 40th anniversary.

Associated Press

anniversary because it's flexible."

While the actual date may be a "Cosmic Thing" — just as the title of their fifth album and hit song — there's no discrepancy that their

reputation as "the world's greatest party band" has thrived since the late 1970s. Yet, while their sound remained upbeat, the band

had some dark days, most notably the death of founding member Ricky Wilson, who succumbed to AIDS in 1985. He is the older brother

of vocalist Cindy Wilson.

"There's always ups and downs in 40 years. And Ricky's death in 1985 was definitely a point where we thought we wouldn't go on. People always ask, 'Did you envision that you would have gone on for 40 years?' You know, that seemed like the end," Pierson said.

Instead, they rebounded with "Cosmic Thing," and scored their most successful album, and biggest hit single, "Love Shack" in 1989. Pierson attributes their longevity to friendship above all else.

"We all maintained our connections and our friendships, which we've maintained over all these years. We still like each other, love each other, and we realize that this was a way to heal and a way to really bring Ricky back into the mix. I think a lot of the songs recalled that time in Athens with Ricky," Pierson said.

She jokes about what would happen if the band were to try to make it today. □

Radio and television personality Ed Schultz dies at 64



This Feb. 12, 2004, file photo shows radio talk-show host Ed Schultz in Fargo, N.D.

Associated Press

Associated Press
FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Veteran broadcasting personality Ed Schultz, whose career took him from quarterbacking at a Minnesota college to national radio and television, including hosting a

show on MSNBC, died on Thursday, according to his son. He was 64.

Schultz died in Washington, where he anchored "News with Ed Schultz," the flagship show on RT America, a Russian-funded station formerly known as Russia Today. Schultz also hosted "The Ed Show" on MSNBC from 2009 to 2015.

His son David Schultz, who lives in Fargo, North Dakota, said his father died of natural causes but declined to provide further details.

"He was an unbelievable father and husband," his son said. "His family and friends are extremely, extremely sad right now. And we thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, as well as privacy for our family though this time."

Schultz blossomed as a college football player in 1977, when he led NCAA Division

II in passing while quarterback at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. After trying out for NFL and Canadian teams, he started a career as a TV and radio sportscaster in the region around Fargo and Moorhead along the Minnesota-North Dakota border.

He later became a conservative radio talk show host, but he was a fiery liberal by the time he took his show into national syndication in 2004.

Schultz also kept a home on Big Detroit Lake in Minnesota, where his college coach, Ross Fortier, also lives, according to Larry Scott, the school's athletics spokesman. Schultz and his former coach remained close over the decades, Scott said.

Schultz is survived by his wife, Wendy, and six children. □

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<p>ANTMAN AND THE WASP PAUL RUDD EVANGELINE LILLY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM 2D MON-FRI 4:15 6:50 9:25 SAT, SUN & HOL 1:45 4:15 6:50 9:25 MON-FRI 5:15 7:50 SAT, SUN & HOL 2:40 5:15 7:50 PG-13</p>	<p>THE FIRST PURGE Y'LAN NOEL MARISA TOMEI MONTHURS 4:55 7:15 9:35 FRI 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SAT 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 11:55 SUN & HOL 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:35 PG-13</p>
<p>UNCLE DREW KYRIE IRVING LIL REL HOWERY WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS 4:50 7:10 9:30 FRI 4:50 7:10 9:30 11:50 SAT 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30 11:50 SUN & HOL 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30 PG-13</p>	<p>JURASSIC WORLD JEFF GOLDBLUM CHRIS PRATT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS & SUN 3:45 6:25 7:20 9:10 FRI & SAT 3:45 6:25 7:20 9:10 10:00 PG-13</p>
<p>INCREDIBLES 2 SAMUEL L. JACKSON CRAIG T. NELSON WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS 4:40 5:05 7:45 FRI 4:40 5:05 7:45 10:25 SAT 2:00 2:25 4:40 5:05 7:45 10:25 SUN & HOL 2:00 2:25 4:40 5:05 7:45 PG</p>	<p>OCEAN'S 8 SANDRA BULLOCK CATE BLANCHETT WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MONTHURS 4:30 6:55 9:20 FRI 4:30 6:55 9:20 11:45 SAT 2:05 4:30 6:55 9:20 11:45 SUN & HOL 2:05 4:30 6:55 9:20 PG-13</p>

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Anne Frank's family tried to escape to US, hit roadblocks

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Research suggests the family of Anne Frank, the world famous Jewish diarist who died in the Holocaust, attempted to immigrate to the United States and later also to Cuba, but their efforts were thwarted by America's restrictive immigration policy and the outbreak of World War II.

The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum said Friday that documents indicate Anne's father Otto tried twice to collect the papers needed to obtain visas for the United States. He later also appears to have applied for a visa to Cuba.

However, the Frank family's escape efforts were all in vain. Eventually they went into hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam on July 6, 1942 — exactly 76 years ago.



In this Monday, June 14, 1971 photo Dr. Otto Frank holds the Golden Pan award, given for the sale of one million copies of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' in London, Great Britain.

Associated Press

"I am forced to look out for emigration and as far as I can see USA is the only country we could go to,"

Otto Frank wrote in English to a friend in the United States in 1941.

His efforts to get the fam-

ily out of the Netherlands to the U.S. likely started as early as 1938 — a turbulent year in which Nazi Germany

annexed Austria and part of Czechoslovakia into the Third Reich. On Nov. 9 that year, Nazis terrorized Jews throughout the country in the violent Kristallnacht pogroms, also known as the "Night of Broken Glass."

Otto Frank wrote in his 1941 letter to his friend Nathan Straus that he had filed an application at the American consulate in the Dutch port city of Rotterdam in 1938.

However, he also mentioned that "all the papers have been destroyed there," because on May 14, 1940, while the Frank family was still on a waiting list for possible visas, the American consulate was devastated during German bombardment and all papers were lost.

Even without the loss of their visa application, it would have been difficult for the Franks to immigrate to the United States. □

Scarlett Johansson's plans to play trans man spurs backlash

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Scarlett Johansson's plans to portray a transgender man have sparked a backlash from many who object to cisgender actors playing trans roles.

Earlier this week, Johansson was announced to star in "Rub & Tug," a film about prostitution ring leader Dante "Tex" Gill, who was born Lois Jean Gill but identified as a man. Since the announcement, transgender actors and advocates have criticized the production for not casting a trans actor in the role.

Johansson, who's also producing the film, further inflamed critics with a statement to the website Bustle, via her representative, that said criticism "can be directed to Jeffrey Tambor, Jared Leto, and Felicity Huffman's reps for comment."

Tambor, Leto and Huffman are all cisgender actors who received acclaim for playing trans characters. Tambor won two Emmys for



In this April 23, 2018 file photo, Scarlett Johansson arrives at the world premiere of "Avengers: Infinity War" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

his performance on "Transparent," though he departed the show last year after he was accused of sexual misconduct by two transgender women: actress Trace Lysette and his former

personal assistant, Van Barnes. Leto won an Oscar for his performance in 2013's "Dallas Buyers Club." Huffman was nominated for an Oscar for the 2005 film "Transamerica."

Lysette was among those who disapproved of Johansson's intentions. On Twitter, she wrote: "So you can continue to play us but we can't play y'all?"

"Not only do you play us

and steal our narrative and our opportunity but you pat yourselves on the back with trophies and accolades for mimicking what we have lived," wrote Lysette.

Jamie Clayton, a transgender actress who stars in Netflix's "Sense8," dared Johansson and the filmmakers to cast trans actors in non-trans parts.

"Actors who are trans never even get to audition for anything other than roles of trans characters," Clayton said in an all-caps tweet. "That's the real issue. We can't even get in the room." Representatives for Johansson didn't respond to messages for comment.

Johansson has come under fire before for playing a role that prompted some outrage. In last year's "Ghost in the Shell," she played the robot character known in Masamune Shirow's original manga series as Motoko Kusanagi.

Critics called it another example of Hollywood's long history of whitewashing Asian characters with Caucasian actors. □

COLLECTION

Fifty Fathoms



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